



Man-made salvation?

One day, this Artificial Moon may hang in the heavens — but at what cost? Will it come only when Earth's resources have been exhausted and man has taken to space?

The International Triennial of New Media Art at the National Art Museum currently presents more than 50 works by 80 artists from 23 countries and regions, using technology to redefine man's relationship with the ecosystem and inform audiences of the crisis of sustainable living.

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struggle for lost friends

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learn to ask for more

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Page 8 Crazy is as crazy does

American base jumper eyes his next challenge — flying across the Gateway of Heaven.



Pages 20-21 Island getaway

Escape to the tranquility of a seaside resort just a few miles outside the capital.



Internet monitoring software pinches bars and cafes

By Chu Meng

Last week, the Beijing Public Security Bureau began requiring certain bars and cafes in the eastern part of town to install expensive monitoring software for their Wi-Fi networks.

A notice issued on the website of the Beijing Public Security Bureau Dongcheng District Branch last Friday required all free Wi-Fi hotspot providers in coffee shops, restaurants and hotels in Dongcheng District to purchase and install the monitoring system.

Such systems cost between 20,000 and 60,000 yuan, depending on the number of accesses they provide. Businesses that fail to install the software while still providing free Wi-Fi will be fined 15,000 yuan.

According to the notice, the monitoring system is able to monitor all Wi-Fi users' online activities, including information they download and upload. This move was to regulate Wi-Fi network safety, prevent Internet fraud, gambling, the spread of damaging information or viruses, and intellectual property right piracy.

The plan is to regulate non-commercial Internet access,



Many local customers find their previously free Internet access in some coffee shops, bars and bookstore is gone. CFP Photo

which refers to thousands of free public Wi-Fi hotspots through the city, said Zhang Yi, a researcher from China Information Technology Security Evaluation Center.

Last Friday, customers at Kubrick Bookstore found their previously free Internet access was gone. A line at the bottom of their receipts read: "under the notice issued by Beijing Public Security Bureau Dongcheng Branch, we have to stop providing Wi-Fi Internet access in our bookstore. Sorry for any inconvenience."

The same thing happened at coffee shops, bars, restaurants, bookstores and hotels in the Zhongzhimen, Sanlitun, Houhai, Gulou and the Nanluogu Xiang areas. Owners all received a regulation document from the Beijing Public Security Bureau Dongcheng Branch asking them to purchase and install the software.

While many owners decided against purchasing the software, employees from KFC, Starbucks and Home Inn chain stores in Dongcheng District said they will

continue providing free Internet.

The new regulation has already created ripple effects.

"Since Saturday, we had an obvious reduction of sales, and received many more inquiries from customers," said an iPad and iPhone vendor at HTC in Top Electronics City in Zhongguancun. "A lot of people are worrying whether they can still enjoy the iPad or iPhone's Wi-Fi functionality freely in public places in the future. After all, 20,000 yuan is not a small sum of money for a small coffee shop. No one needs an iPad if they can just get on the Internet at home."

"My job demands at least eight hours of constant access to the Internet every day. That's why I've become a regular client of places with free Wi-Fi," said Guo Rouxi, an advertising copywriter and loyal customer of the Bookworm in Sanlitun. "Otherwise, I'll just stay in the office or home."

Several businesses, including famous cafes and bookstores, have seen a decline in business.

The software was designed by Shanghai Rain-Soft Software for about 2 million yuan. It currently is designed to handle 100 users at a time.

Many license plate lottery winners still without cars

By Yao Weijie

The validity period for the first batch of license plates created by lottery expired at the end of last month, just as demand for lottery plates continues to overwhelm supply – the previous seventh license plate lottery saw 610,000 people vie for 17,600 available plates.

Names of people – about 1,000 in total – who did not buy a car using the plates they won will be published.

Those people will be automatically entered into the next lottery later this month, where 18,600 plates will be available.

"Lottery winners who are not eager to buy cars need to be separated from would-be car buyers, but it's a violation of privacy to publish their names," said Hao Yan, who works for a local IT company.

The website bjhjyd.gov.cn solicited opinions from May 26 to June 8 on what measures to take against lottery winners who don't buy cars. The government may impose one- or two-year bans from future license-plate lotteries.

Wang Zhaorong, who works at Beijing Municipal Traffic Commission, said the government will consider punishing lottery winners who don't buy cars, but didn't say how.

As more would-be car buyers find themselves unable to get license plates, they're beginning to express doubt over the system's effectiveness.

"I entered the lottery in March and still don't have a plate," Hao said.

"But I think I'm not the one who needs the car the most," she said. "Many people, such as those who live far away, or who have a pregnant wife, or whose children need to go to school early, need a car more urgently."

Hao offered some advice for revising the license-plate lottery. First, the policy should give priority to people who really need cars. The plates should also be issued to households, not individuals.

In addition, those who do not win a license plate should have to reapply to enter the next round. Otherwise, the chances for people to win will only decrease as more lotteries happen.

Shopping mall and supermarket strengthen security defense

By Zhang Dongya

Starting August 1, regulations on public security in large- and medium-sized shopping malls and supermarkets took effect in Beijing. All regulated shopping malls and supermarkets are required to set up a four-level warning and disposal mechanism to cope with public security risks, including terrorism attacks and explosions.

According to the regulations, shopping malls and supermarkets that are between 3,000 and 5,000 square meters are considered "medium-sized," and anything bigger is considered "large."

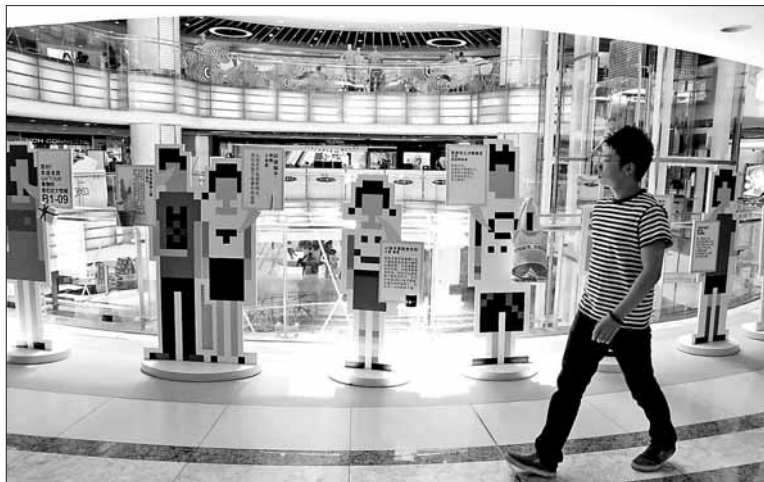
Beijing currently has more than 200 large- and medium-sized shops.

The regulations state all shops should conduct at least two security-defense drills each year with all staff members. Meanwhile, all shops are required to set up a special department of security guards, with at least two professionals. The security monitoring center should have at least two guards monitoring around the clock.

Shops are required to take measures when large crowds are present, such as controlling admissions, isolating certain areas and dispersing crowds.

The four-level alert system will be color-coded: green (for no risk), yellow, orange and red (highest risk).

At yellow, shops have to check



Large- and medium-sized shopping malls and supermarkets in Beijing are required to set up a four-level warning and disposal mechanism. CFP Photo

the trash cans every 30 minutes and all evacuation exits and stairs. Meanwhile, they should leave enough space for ambulances, fire trucks and police cars in the parking lot.

Orange alert requires shops to stop using self-service lockers. They have to leave space for anti-explosion vehicles and rescue vehicles.

Liu Yanjun, PR manager of Xidan Joy City, said his mall is beginning to strengthen its security.

"We have equipped many monitoring facilities to monitor the volume of traffic. The instant traffic reaches 30,000, more security guards will be dispatched," he said. "Meanwhile, they will report the situation accordingly. Usually, at least 300 security guards patrol in the shopping mall."

She said they conduct security drills twice a month with salespeople and staff members of different stories.

Carrefour said it will set up a security counter at its entrance.

Vivi Wang, marketing director of Beijing Yintai Center, said since Yintai targets high-end customers, it doesn't expect as many problems with foot traffic. The store has strict regulations to guarantee public order and sanitation.

Zhongyou Department Store said it has equipped cameras in all entrances as well as escalators. Specially-assigned people in the lobby will direct traffic.

Animal activists tirelessly work to save the city's strays

Misunderstood by the public

Standing in front of a new animal shelter in Huairou District, Feng Xiaolei, a 34-year-old animal activist, appears lost in deep thought. After years of struggle, she and fellow activists finally have a satisfying shelter to provide stray animals with a comfortable home.

Before, Ruijia Animal Rescue Society, which Feng belongs to, had shelters for stray dogs and cats, too, but never such a nice home. Twice they were moved, once due to a government redevelopment plan, and another time because neighborhood residents thought them a nuisance.

Few people understand why people would devote so much time and money helping stray animals.

A man who prefers to be called Old Sun, a 60-year-old animal caretaker, was employed by Ruijia years ago. He said the former neighborhood thought of Ruijia activists as wealthy people who had nothing better to do than waste money on cats and dogs.

"Many also think since there are still so many people who need help, the activists should do more charity work for human beings rather than for animals," Sun said.

The miracle of Kaka

Ruijia Animal Rescue Voluntary Society, which currently has more than 200 members, was founded in 2008 by a group of people who shared the belief that animals also had rights, even strays.

The group started in September 2007. At that time, villagers from Qingheying, Laiguangying County in Chaoyang District were relocated to new homes in the city, abandoning many of their pets.

About 30 animal activists, upon hearing the news, contacted one another and went to the village. They spent more than eight months taking turns to visit the stray pets, giving them food, water, and vaccinations, and helping them find permanent homes.

Feng joined Ruijia in 2008 after she prevented 32 dogs from being sold to a slaughterhouse.

Feng says her whole family loves animals, and she began adopting stray cats and dogs from the age of 10. Her family used to own four large dogs, but two of them were stolen, which hurt her deeply.

Whenever she hears about dogs being sold to restaurants, she gets extremely angry.

"Those dogs were stolen pets," she says.

Feng says that raising dogs for consumption is more expensive than raising pigs or livestock, but dog meat commands a lower price, so peddlers end up stealing pets. So they could spend no money on dog raising.

As a member of Ruijia, Feng is wholly devoted to rescuing and taking care of strays.

She clearly remembers the day she met Kaka. It was Christmas Eve of 2008 in a pet clinic in Beijing, and Kaka, who suffered from a condition that made it difficult for him to use his hind legs, sat with big, brimming eyes and stared at strangers with his undivided attention.

Feng learned that Kaka had been adopted and discarded several times, and that in early December, a woman found him in a trash can.

"All pet clinics said it was impossible for Kaka to recover from his condition," Feng said. "Once I saw his eyes, I made up my mind to take him home with me."

Kaka behaved like a kid at first, barking loudly and crawling back and forth, and doing his business on the floor. Feng, who bought many diapers for Kaka, invented a new way to fold diapers for him because he

By Wei Xi

For years, animal activists have fought an uphill battle for the rights of strays. Despite all odds – even in the face of family opposition – they persist, finding strength in their love for animals and support from one another.



Feng Xiaolei taking Kaka for a walk.

Photos by Feng Xiaolei

had a condition that made it difficult to control his bowels.

Although all the vets said Kaka could not be rehabilitated, and some even suggested he be put down, Feng massaged him and helped exercise his hind legs. One summer, when Feng was told swimming could help, she took Kaka to a pet swimming pool three times a week. After six months of swimming, Kaka was able to wag his tail.

"The news that Kaka could walk surprised a lot of my friends, who said it was a miracle caused by love," Feng wrote on her blog.

Obstacles everywhere

Working at an animal shelter isn't easy.

An animal activist nicknamed Qi Qi of Mumu Home for Love, another stray rescue team, once detailed on her blog the difficulty of taking care of strays.

The kennels need to be sprayed with clean water and sterilized, and volunteers had to wash the dogs and cut their hair.

Qi Qi, through prolonged bending at the waist to clean kennels, developed lumbar spondylosis, making it difficult for her to stand and even take a shower.

"The work to take care of dogs is dirty and tiring, and not everyone can do it," she says. "The work scares away many volunteers, who don't come a second time."

Like Mumu Home for Love, Ruijia faces the same difficulties.

Only 40 out of its 300 members go to the shelter regularly. Some quit after the first visit, says a man named Chen Nan, senior activist at Ruijia.

For those who persist, they face doubts from friends, family and society.

around 100,000 yuan per year, because she has a comparatively higher income (she's the boss at her company) and wants to contribute as much as she can.

As one can imagine, this spending has caused problems. Feng and Chen's parents are opposed to what they do.

Feng's family has tried to persuade her to spend her money on other things, such as buying a car or redecorating her apartment.

Activists encounter obstacles during rescues as well.

Many strays are former pets who were abandoned by their owners, says Gary Guo, a middle-aged employee at a multinational company and Ruijia activist.

Villagers feel resentful toward activists who try to tell them how to take care of their pets.

"They think the animals still belong to them and that all we're doing is poking our nose into their affairs," Guo says. "Others accept our suggestions, but neglect them again after we leave."

Feng says many Chinese villages regard their pets as burdens.

People in other parts of the world seem to take a different attitude. After Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans in 2005, many local residents stayed with their pets in still-dangerous place because they did not have any means to take their pets with them.

While animal rescue groups are respected in the US, Ruijia finds itself confronted with a growing list of enemies. When Dragon TV broadcast a program last June to discuss whether the activists did the right thing by saving 500 dogs on Jinha Highway, a war of words started.

Many critics blamed the activists and tried harassing them, Guo says.

One netizen nicknamed "warmhearted netizen" wrote on zhidao.com that the activists knew little about dogs and only wanted to make themselves famous.

Another anonymous netizen said dog meat was the most delicious in the world and encouraged people to kill more.

A united front

"Although sometimes we have problems within our group, such as members with different ideas on how to rescue animals and promote ourselves, I still think the more people we have in our team, the stronger we are," Feng says.

"When we face various challenges, more people can come up with better solutions," she says. "We can seek strength from each other as well."

Over the years, Feng and her fellow activists have worked out an effective way to keep the organization running: a division of labor according to one's specialization.

Ruijia has different groups in charge of stray capture, shelter management and online publicity and finance, with everyone capable of helping other departments.

Being more professional has been important.

In recent years, Ruijia has begun promoting the idea of adopting strays according to your own ability. It also runs a spay and neutering program to control the animal population.

Every time they adopted a stray, the first thing they did was to take it to a clinic, and give it vaccinations and neutering. If someone needed help neutering their pets, Ruijia activists would give suggestions on where to do it and how to take care of the pets after the operation. They also go to communities and schools to advocate pet population control.

"No matter what others think of us, the satisfaction we get from helping strays keeps us going," Feng says.



Ruijia activists helping strays move to the new shelter.

Money is a key element in keeping the organization running, but few people or companies are willing to support them.

The cost for keeping the shelter is 240,000 yuan a year, which does not include major medical costs, says Janis Liu, who is in charge of Ruijia's finances.

All of the money is raised by voluntary donations or charity events.

"Every year, my spending on strays is about 20,000 yuan, about a third of my total income," says Chen, who has also adopted a disabled stray dog at his home and another two in Ruijia's shelter.

The cost for Feng is even greater,

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Paid leave a 'luxury'

China ranks last with fewest paid vacation days

Who has the most vacation days? Many look to the Americans and British. But a recent survey finds that Brazilians come out on top, while China ranks last, with 21 days.

For many office workers, China is a nation lacking the vacation concept.



Tourists enjoy a sightseeing trip in the Tian'anmen Square.

CFP Photo

CNN recently released an online list ranking countries in terms of guaranteed paid vacation days. Brazil and Lithuania topped the list with 41 days. China, with an alleged 21 days, was the country with fewest days of paid leave.

The list, based on a 2009 survey,

reflects the minimum vacation days for an employee who works five days a week and has more than 10 years of work experience.

According to CNN, large US companies usually give their 10-year employees 25 days off a year: 15 paid vacation days and 10 public holidays. A Chinese counter-

part enjoys 10 paid vacation days and 11 public holidays a year.

Many Chinese office workers, however, believe the actual number of days off is much lower.

Finland, France and Russia also offer at least 40 days off.

(Agencies)

The third eye

For most in China, vacation is still family time

By Huang Daohen

Li Lin would be very satisfied if he had a full 21 days of paid leave a year, but for an IT engineer in a local private company, it's mission impossible.

Li said his company grants paid vacation days to workers who have served the company more than five years, but very few eligible employees have taken the days off. Instead, overtime work on weekends is a more regular occurrence.

"Sometimes, I really want to take a vacation, but I don't dare ask my boss because none of my colleagues have done it before," Li said.

The latest report by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences shows that over half of workers in Beijing said they seldom take paid vacation days and more than 20 percent said they frequently worked on weekends.

Economic concerns are among the reasons why people decide to stay at work. Li said he would give up vacation to continue working and earn more money because he had a huge mortgage to pay.

This doesn't mean the labor authorities have stipulated people must work. Under current regulations, all employees are entitled to take paid vacation after serving the same employer for one year.

Employees who have worked from 1 to 10 years have five days of paid vacation, while those with 10 to 20 years have 10 days and those with more than 20 years have 15 days.

But currently, the regulations are only implemented in government organs, public-service institutions and big enterprises, said Shirley Wen, a researcher at Renmin University.

There are so many small- and medium-size enterprises, most of which are private and lack a system for paid vacation, that Wen said it will take time to perfect the paid leave system.

But even if people take days off, they will do it differently from the way people do in the US. While Americans carefully schedule time to not conflict with the holidays of others, Chinese tend to share the time with family and go on vacation at the same time.

Wen said that's partly due to the "Golden Week" vacation, a system introduced in 1999 to encourage people to spend money.

Going out is a headache when it's crowded outside and there are price hikes in airplane tickets and hotel rooms. That's why when 1.3 billion people go on holiday at the same time, most choose to stay with the family, Wen said.

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Behind brand awareness

Savvy consumers more concerned with quality and service

By Huang Daohen

A niche brand known only to a few won't bring market success. But at a time when consumers are becoming increasingly sophisticated in their tastes and expect better products, neither will brand awareness alone.

Japan-based noodle chain Ajisen Ramen knows this well after becoming mired in a series of food scandals. This has come at a cost of HK\$ 4 billion (\$3.35 billion yuan). Failure to invest in both brand-building and quality control is fatal for enterprises.



Pedestrians walk past an Ajisen Ramen in Beijing.

Shen Jingwei/CFP Photo

Brand equals profit

Though unbelievable, Chinese consumers, young and old, are flocking to fast food brands such as McDonald's and KFC, all in the name of food safety and health.

Wang Bo is among them. Each work day, the 25-year-old business consultant at a local law firm eats at his nearby McDonald's.

"I know fried food is not healthy, but I believe a global known brand won't use recycled oil," Wang said.

Local food providers are partly to blame for this situation.

In recent years, domestic food has suffered a horrible reputation crisis. In 2008, tainted Sanlu milk made tens of hundreds of babies ill and left a number of infants dead. The scandal was followed by reports of tainted food from meat to rice.

Lillian Chou, analyst and researcher with KPMG, believes it is matter of brand awareness.

Consumers like Wang are evidence of the recent business model in China. "Growing brand awareness would equal market profits as the emerging wealthy class chases after name brand products," Chou said. And in turn, the companies that make profit from the trend further grow their brands throughout the nation.

Adidas is an example in China. The sportswear maker already has more than 6,000 retail shops in over 500 cities on the Chinese mainland, and it is planning to open even more.

A random visit to second-

and third-tier cities like Kunming, Yunnan Province reveals adidas stores everywhere. Sometimes, on one downtown road, there are two adidas stores that stand almost directly opposite each other.

"Setting up a new store here is relatively inexpensive compared to places like the US," she said. But while costs are cheap, adidas products command similar prices to their American retail counterparts.

Major big global brands like Starbucks, Nike and Zara now have made expansion in smaller cities a priority.

Scandal hurts

While being well-known is a very important factor for global brands to succeed in China, ignorance of quality control may cause even bigger problems.

Noodle chain Ajisen has recently been trapped in a series of soup scandals.

On July 21, an investigative program on Beijing Television broke a story that Ajisen lied over the composition of its soup ingredients, which the company claimed to be made from actual pork bone.

The program found Ajisen uses concentrates and flavoring powders instead.

The situation got worse a week later when the company's statement about the integrity of the soup was contradicted online by a professor who took part in an evaluation test of the ingredients used.

Ajisen, listed on the Hong

"The future market will be dominated by consumers who are less loyal to specific brands and less willing to pay more for the same quality."

Kong Stock Exchange, suffered the biggest slump in its stock since 2008, which caused a loss of more than HK\$4 billion (3.35 billion yuan).

Hot on the heels of Ajisen, KFC China admitted last week that its soybean milk was made from liquid concentrate or powder.

The announcement came after an outcry from consumers who felt the milk was not fresh.

The anger was directed at the high price of concentrated soy milk rather than the quality. Cups of KFC's hot mellow soybean milk cost 5.5 yuan while a cold one costs 6.5 yuan, about 10 times of the retail price.

"I thought it was expensive because it was freshly made. But now it turns out it's not worth it,"

said a local citizen who used to order soybean milk at KFC.

Both scandals from the two well-known food chains have generated an enormous response from consumers and netizens. Many questioned the business ethics of foreign food brands. A popular question online is, "How many foreign brands are deceiving us?"

KPMG's Chou said the focus on both companies over these issues indicates how sensitive Chinese consumers are now becoming.

With the help of the Internet and Weibo, substandard products will not remain hidden, she said.

In Ajisen and KFC's case, all it took for the eruption of full media coverage was a couple of people posting the incidents through their Weibo, which now has more than 10 million regular users.

"This means that any story picked up on popular Weibo accounts will almost certainly go viral," Chou said.

Savvy consumers

The shift in consumer behavior is not defined by curiosity and hatred over name brand scandals, however. According to Chou's recent study, Chinese shoppers are becoming savvier and expect a wider range of better products.

Now, like elsewhere in the world, Chinese people have much easier access to new sources. Statistics show as many as 36 percent of the country's 1.3 billion citizens have access to the Internet.

This allows consumers the ability to research their choices and buy online. They are now more likely to check prices on the Internet before buying, Chou said.

In the near future, Chou said the country's increasing growth in e-commerce area will greatly change the way consumers interact and shop. "This means the future market will be generally dominated by consumers who are less loyal to specific brands and less willing to pay more for the same quality," she said.

Domestic companies surveyed in Chou's study said they have already planned to expand into e-commerce. But multinational enterprises were less likely to have such plans.

At the same time, as wealth continues to grow and with more disposable income available to Chinese consumers, people are beginning to travel abroad and focusing more on leisure activities and art, she said.

That will not only raise their brand awareness, but also let them experience different lifestyles, which in turn drives demand for a greater range of choices than in the past. Chou said such shifts indicate that the country's economy has become more dynamic. Decades ago, China's economy was centrally planned.

Investing in both brand building and quality control are crucial to all brands, and only by doing so can enterprises remain competitive and free from scandal, Chou said.

Chinese to sit Chinese exams

By Yao Weijie

The higher national certificate test (HNC) in Chinese, which has been developed for three years by the Ministry of Education, will begin a pilot program in October in Shanghai, Jiangsu, Yunnan and Inner Mongolia.

The HNC will test students' ability in listening, speaking, reading and writing, and is similar to the College English Test Band 4 and Band 6 tests (CET-4, CET-6).

It is divided into six levels; people with different requirements will take different levels of the examination. "Recently, the phenomena of 'English hot, Mandarin cold,' Mandarin Europeanization and the misuse of language are very common. We hope the HNC will help improve understanding of Chinese language and culture, be conducive to its spread, enhance national cohesion and revive our native language," said Dai Jiagan, director of the

Ministry's exam center.

But the HNC is different from the College English Test Band 4 and Band 6 in some aspects. First, HNC is the first test program focusing on Chinese native-speakers, while the CET-4 and CET-6 mainly focus on college students.

All the exam results are based on personally cultural and educational levels and knowledge proficiency. Except for writing, other tests are completed on a computer.

Second, the results of the HNC are not currently the threshold for schools and companies. It's not a mandatory regulation to reach a certain level for some careers, but it may become mandatory in the future.

It is reported that this test will cost money, but the specific costs will be determined by the Development and Reform Commission after the test is officially launched.

Comment

Permit foreigners to attend the test

I think it's good to create a new test in Chinese language study. But I am confused why non-native speakers are not allowed to attend.

Currently, there is only a single Chinese language test for non-native speakers, which is the HSK. The departments really should add more language tests of this kind, and allow foreigners to gauge their Chinese language ability through different channels.

I have been in China for six years, and my child also works here. Both of us have been learning Chinese for many years and have passed the HSK (advanced), but we can't say we have completed our Chinese studies given that the language

and culture is so complex. I think attending these tests will offer a good chance for foreigners to better learn Chinese.

But most non-native speakers learn Chinese for their own interests and wishes, so the test shouldn't be mandatory, otherwise the effects will be reduced.

— Rana Mirkin, headmaster of an international school

Implementing the HNC in rural districts

China is implementing fair education, which means paying more attention to children's education in poor, remote areas. Although compulsory education has been implemented for many years, many minorities still use their minority languages, which will inhibit their com-

munication with the outside world.

I think it is necessary to launch the HNC in some districts like Xizang, Inner Mongolia, Xinjiang and some rural areas. However, whether this should be implemented throughout China still needs to be considered.

— Jiang Danji, education major

No duplicate products

I agree with the implementation of the HNC. Chinese language has become more and more non-standard, especially for the younger generation. They spend more time on English than on Chinese and misuse language in their daily lives.

The Ministry of Education must make sure this test is different from other Chi-

nese tests; otherwise it is only be a meaningless, duplicate product.

— Baoyu, IT worker

One form of exam economy

The CET-4 and CET-6 have been implemented for many years, cultivating many people to know "Mute English." Who can guarantee the HNC won't develop such kind of people, whose scores are high in the test, but language abilities are low?

To attend a test, you should pay a test fee, you should buy books and you might need a teacher to help you. I don't think the product of this exam economy will have a good effect.

— Han Gaobo, retired teacher

Staff only to visit Peking University

By Li Zhixin

At the beginning of this month, Peking University started to limit visitor flow to only 5,000 people daily during the summer holiday. Tsinghua University also limited the visitor time to between 8:30 am to 4:30 pm from July 16 to August 14. However, visitors from all over the country are still arriving in large numbers, only to get stopped by the entrance guards at the gate of the universities every day.

Recently, a poll about whether Peking University should keep out visitors during the holiday showed that 61.2 percent of respondents agree with the move, but 38.8 percent of them firmly oppose.

According to the security department of Peking University, the move aims to guarantee campus order during the holiday. "We have a quota of 3,000 for group tours every day, but they need to book in advance. For the 2,000 individual visitors, they can enter the campus through the southeast gate or west gate with valid certificates such as student certificates or identification cards," said An Guojing, the director of the university's security department.

The restriction won't be lifted until mid-August, he added.



A board outside of the east gate of Peking University requesting that tourists apply to enter the campus.
CFP Photo

Comment

Negotiate limits with the public

The educational expenditure of the two universities is all from the state, through taxpayers' money. They should negotiate with the public before restricting visitors.

China's most famous universities have a special status in Chinese people's minds, so by satisfying people's sightseeing demands, they can show the university spirit of openness and tolerance.

— Guo Shaoli, lawyer

A campus is not a public garden

Although public universities are funded by the government, their social functions are different from public gardens which are also contributed to by taxpayers. The primary function of universities is engaging in higher education and scientific research activities, and teachers and students need

a quiet atmosphere, so visitors should not take the campus as scenic spot or park.

— Zhang Jian, doctoral student

Universities should refuse commercial tourism

Universities should be open to visitors, but the precondition is to say no to those business groups with profit motives who organize visitors to travel to campuses.

In fact, many visitors don't really need to view Peking University's scenery, but want to experience the academic atmosphere there. Universities should satisfy these people's needs. Only in this way can universities fulfill their function as being for the public good.

— Duan Qigang, senior editor

Give university more understanding

During summer or winter holidays,

there are many seminars, camps and training sessions held on campuses, so universities face a lot of challenges in terms of management and campus order. What's more, universities also like to take advantage of the intervals to maintain and reconstruct some buildings and campus facilities, but the high visitor numbers during summer holidays is a great burden. We should give them some more understanding on this matter.

— Wang Deyan, professor

Imbalanced development

There are many universities in Beijing, why do visitors prefer to visit Peking University and Tsinghua University? This shows the allocation of educational resources and the development of

universities is obviously imbalanced.

Meanwhile, many provincial and municipal leaders take the number of students who are admitted to Peking University or Tsinghua University as one criterion for measuring their achievements in their official career. Those students who get the enrollment notification will be granted many rewards by the local government. The frequent publicity by the local media also makes these two universities' status symbols.

People have developed the notion that these two universities are truly the best. Once they come to visit Beijing, they all want to have a look and experience the atmosphere in person.

— Wang Bingzhi, high school teacher in Gansu Province

The sound of comfort?

Dutch therapist claims to heal with Tibetan singing bowls

By Chu Meng

Hans de Back, a "sound healer" from the Netherlands, presented his first sound healing workshop in Beijing on Tuesday from a traditional courtyard in Wudaoying Hutong.

A patient lay face down on a massage table. More than 30 Tibetan "singing bowls" made of brass were placed around the table or over parts of his body. The bowls, all round but in different sizes, made different sounds when hit by streams of air.

Back prefers calling his unique therapy "sound massage" or "sound healing." He said that like traditional music healing therapy, Tibetan bowl healing works by focusing on people's bodies and their minds through certain sound arrangements. But unlike music, the sounds of metal vibrations bear no rhythm or melody.

"Different sized Tibetan bowls make exclusive audio frequencies and vibrations in the air," he said. "The human body resonates with those vibrations. That is how sound healing therapies work. It is good at reducing pressure and anxiety."

Back has suffered from physical pain since childhood. He was on his way to becoming a tap dancer when a diagnosis of ankylosing spondylitis derailed him when he was 18 years old. With joint adhesion and stiffness in his back near the spine, his muscle tissue gradually calcified.

The unbearable pain and discomfort worsened. Even narcotic drugs didn't provide relief. He was forced to quit dancing.



Hans de Back shares his Tibetan bowls theory.

Photos provided by Hans de Back

It was around this time that one of his classmates brought a Tibetan singing bowl from China back to the Netherlands. In class, Back was exposed to its sound for the first time.

"I can still remember the moment the first flow of the bowl's sound came to my ears," he said. "It was unbelievable. The sound generated by hitting or rubbing the bowl penetrated my body and made me comfortable again after years of pain."

Later he learned that Tibetan singing bowls are composed of seven metals, including gold, silver and nickel. They originate from the Himalayas and are used primarily

by Tibetans during their harmonizing rituals, by monks for their voice training exercises and ritual offers, as well as by the locals who eat and drink out of them.

At that time, together with meditation, singing bowls had become an effective healing method among Tibetans.

Back began to train himself in sound healing therapies and spent the next 30 years traveling around temples and alchemy workshops in Tibet, Nepal and India, collecting more than 30 Tibetan singing bowls for healing purposes.

He eventually became a leading authority in sound therapy in Europe and founded his own

studio, The Health Angels, in the Netherlands. Besides sound massages, he also gives demonstrations, workshops, classes and concerts, and is actively involved in group projects around the world combining dance, film, verbal art, readings and martial arts.

"A sound massage or healing therapy is an acoustic, vibratory experience," he said. "Water makes up 70 percent of our body, and water is a good medium for transmitting sound vibrations. Thus, you're literally touched by sound in some way. Your cells, which are also mostly water, will also receive those vibrations."



Hans de Back presenting a Tibetan singing bowls healing workshop in Beijing.

The acoustic vibrations help the body rediscover its own natural harmony.

Back said that, just as a well-tuned instrument is a pleasure to the ear, so sound massage is a pleasure for the body, mind and spirit. During his one-hour course, he used 30 Tibetan singing bowls, which produced a deep, relaxing sound.



Jeb Corliss has been low altitude parachute jumping for 13 years.

By Li Zhixin

Jeb Corliss, an American professional BASE jumper, skydiver and wingsuit pilot, has set his sights on Tianmen Mountain in Zhangjiajie, Hunan Province, for his latest stunt on September 24.

He plans to soar across the mountain and through Tianmen Cave, also known as the Gateway of Heaven, regarded as the highest elevated natural arch in the world at 1,520 meters.

"Flying across Tianmen Mountain will be the most challenging task in my life," he said. "I have visited and investigated many places, but there's no place like Tianmen Mountain to allow

Daredevil plans to soar through world's highest natural arch



Jeb Corliss said flying across Tianmen Mountain will be his most challenging task yet.

Photos provided by Jeb Corliss

me to fulfill my goal of flying through a mountain."

The flight will mark Corliss' third low-altitude parachute jump in China. Previously, he leapt off Shanghai's 420-meter-high Jinmao Grand Plaza in 2004 and a 666-meter-high sinkhole in Fengjie off the Yangtze River in 2008.

Born in 1976, Corliss said he's been living his dream, leap-

ing from various landmarks and buildings around the world. He takes pleasure in unique dangers. His favorite quote is, "You have no control, so stop pretending you do and just get on with living your life; stop living in fear!"

Fearless though he might be, Corliss isn't crazy. Before each flight, he does a comprehensive risk assessment. "This is the only

thing I think about before formal performances," he said.

In the two months before his Tianmen jump, Corliss will review everything and make final arrangements with his team.

Weather conditions are an essential factor. If conditions aren't ideal, he will postpone the jump.

"I also need to choose a good flight path and practice several

times to gauge speeds and gather data to safely land before the formal performance," he said.

When Corliss first saw a low-altitude parachute jump in Italy in 1998, he fell in love with it. He began wingsuit flying and undertook his first flight that year.

Corliss was also the original host of the Discovery Channel series Stunt Junkies, but he was fired after getting arrested in 2006 for trying to jump off the Empire State Building. He got off the hook when a judge ruled he was experienced enough as a base jumper to not endanger other people or himself.

In the last 10 years, he has jumped from sites around 16 countries, including the Eiffel Tower in Paris, the Space Needle in Seattle, the Royal Gorge Bridge in Colorado, Salto Angel Falls in Venezuela and the Petronas Twin Towers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Currently, he is working on a plan to jump out of a helicopter with his wingsuit and land without a parachute.

Gary Locke is coming

Will he bring a new perspective to China-US relations?

By Han Manman

Gary Locke will soon come to Beijing as the new US ambassador to China. His career has been one of many firsts: the first Chinese American governor of a US state; first Chinese American secretary of commerce; and now, the first Chinese American ambassador to China.

However, one big public concern is what will this Chinese American ambassador bring to China?

Gary Locke was sworn in as the first Chinese American to serve as US ambassador to China on Monday, pledging to strengthen bilateral ties and raise issues of concern when disagreements arise.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton officiated at Locke's swearing-in ceremony at the State Department. She praised the ex-two-term governor of Washington State for his hard work and said he was the right person to manage the "extraordinarily important" relationship the US has with China.

"Gary is going to Beijing at a time when there will be a lot of work for us to do," she said. "But I know that Gary is more than ready to tackle the many difficult issues and challenges," she said.

"As the child of Chinese immigrants growing up in the state of Washington, having the opportunity to represent Amer-



Though many Chinese welcome an ethnically Chinese ambassador, experts say he is no different to the previous ambassadors and will do everything to serve the interests of the US. IC Photos

ica, the land of my birth, and to represent American values are surely beyond any dream that I could possibly have," Locke said at the ceremony.

"I firmly believe improved US-

China cooperation is critically important, not just for our own two countries but for the global community," he said.

Xiong Yutong, a staff member of the US embassy in Beijing,

said the embassy is busy making preparations for receiving the new envoy and his family. However, she said the embassy has not yet been notified when Locke will arrive in Beijing.

Profile

Locke, 61, was nominated by president Barack Obama in March after ambassador Jon Huntsman stepped down to prepare for a run for the 2012 presidential election as a Republican candidate.

Before Obama appointed him as commerce secretary in 2009, Locke also served as governor of Washington from 1997 to 2005. As governor, he doubled the state's exports to China.

Locke's grandfather went to the US more than a century ago to work as a servant for a family in Washington state in exchange for English lessons. His father moved to the US as a teenager.

Expert analysis

Beijing Today interviewed Jin Canrong, an international affairs expert at Renmin University, about the new ambassador.

BT: Do you think the US government nominating Locke as the first Chinese American ambassador to China is a positive sign towards China?

Jin: Yes, it is. I think his appointment as ambassador reveals the goodwill of the Obama administration to keep a good relationship with China. It also shows Obama clearly regards the Sino-US relationship as one of the most critical relationships for the US, otherwise he would not nominate a former secretary of commerce as the US ambassador to China.

BT: Famous economist Lang Xianping once publicly expressed that Locke's coming is not good news for China. As the former secretary of commerce, his attitude towards some certain China issues is not "mild." Some are worried that he will use the same attitude after taking the ambassador's position. What's your opinion?

Jin: I don't agree with him. Locke served as governor of Washington State for two terms. During his tenure, Washington

state had very close relations with China. He also made great efforts to develop economic and trade relations with China.

BT: Many reports said Locke's arrival comes at a sensitive period for the China-US relationship. What do you think?

Jin: Locke will face a challenging situation in China. China-US relations have experienced ups and downs during the last three years. 2009 was a honeymoon period, 2010 was a year of conflict and in 2011 the two countries remain relatively stable in their relationship. But the next year will be a tough year for US-China relations as China changes its leadership and the US holds elections. During that period of time, both countries will not show a soft attitude towards sensitive issues. Also, in the next 10 years, China will have rapid development but the US may face more internal economic problems.

BT: Do you think this Chinese American ambassador will subconsciously avoid doing anything intimate with China?

Jin: Although he is of Chinese origin, he is a US citizen and like his predecessors he will do

everything to serve the interests of the US.

BT: Locke cannot speak Chinese, but he is striving to learn the language. What does this mean for his role?

Jin: I think he wants to show to both the US and China that he really wants to learn Chinese, but it is probably just a kind of gesture. He is 61 years old, and it's hard to learn a language once you are older. By doing so, he is hoping to show a friendly attitude to Chinese people and to show the US that he is making the effort to do well in his new role. This will help him be accepted more easily in China.



US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton swears in Gary Locke as US ambassador to China while his wife Mona holds the Bible.

Local voice

Locke is a great choice to serve as US ambassador to China. As a former elected official, he understands how ordinary Americans view the relationship with China. With his background as secretary of commerce, he also understands that trade and investment ties with China are important to American jobs and economic prosperity. I think he will be an effective ambassador.

— Li Xinjian, teacher at Beijing Language and Culture University

Please wake up! Don't expect him to defend China. He is an American, just with a Chinese face. He represents and defends the interests of the US. It's not about blood;

it's about education and law.

— Lu Ningning, netizen on Daqi.com

Locke's nomination is Taishan's glory. He is not only making Taishan well known but his nomination is also an opportunity to improve US-China relations and Chinese immigrants' social status.

— Yu Rong, resident from Locke's ancestral home of Taishan

Chinese people may accept and feel close to Locke at first because of his Chinese face. But he will receive more criticism when he represents the US on some disputed issues such as the South China Sea. Some might lose trust in him or even ask, "Traitor, whose side are you really on?" Good luck to him!

— Li Qihua, local IT worker

I wonder whether China can nominate an American-Chinese as a Chinese ambassador to the US. It will be a good promotion for the two countries' relationship.

— Xuexue, Sina microblogger

I hope the new ambassador spends more time getting to know China and Chinese people like former ambassador Jon Huntsman

— Chen Zhe, student at Peking University

Design contest calling for amateur designers



Some submitted designs
Photos provided by Time Out Beijing



By Annie Wei

As part of Beijing Design Week in September, *Time Out Beijing* is collaborating with AnyWearStyle.com and Creativ Culture.com to hold a design competition.

The task is to design logos on a T-shirt and cotton bag using the theme "Beijing in the past and present."

The competition aims to attract amateur creative designers and encourage the growth of local design trends in China, said Hannah Oussedik, *Time Out Beijing* marketing and events director.

Oussedik said more than 200 people have submitted their work online. "They are all amateur designers in their 20s," she said.

Daniel Meller, a panel member and founder of CreativCulture.com, said he expects 500 total participants before the competition ends.

Meller, a furniture designer, first moved to Shanghai four years ago.

He said modern Chinese

design has become interesting in the last five to six years. He established his company a year ago, introducing original Chinese designs abroad.

Meller is not the only one who's identified emerging Chinese talents. There are quite a few expats in both Beijing and Shanghai interested in turning original Chinese designs into profit.

"The concept is too new, and many consumers don't know about original Chinese designs," Meller said. Also, China is a

huge country and its design industry is at a very early stage, he said.

More young people want to become engineers than designers, Meller said, so there aren't as many opportunities for young designers to showcase their talent.

Eric Shya, fashion editor of *Time Out Chinese*, said because the contest is for amateur designers, a T-shirt was the simplest thing to use.

As a member of the panel, Shya said the judges are looking

for originality, aspects of Chinese culture and general artful aesthetics.

Aside from the contest, *Time Out Beijing* will host other events to highlight design week.

The magazine will set up a pop-up shop in Dashila in the Qianmen area in a spacious 1980s factory room. The top three artworks will be presented there. During fashion week, the pop-up shop will host other events like a fashion photography exhibition and a series of talks by fashion experts.

The UK retailer Topshop and Topman will be launched in China at the same space. People can place direct orders from the shop.

Alice McInerney, fashion editor of *Time Out Beijing* and founder of AnyWearStyle.com, said her website would launch in a few weeks, aiming to showcase the talents of Chinese designers and sell their works at home and abroad.

To learn more about the competition and how to get involved, please visit: timeoutbeijing.com/beijingdesignweek and enter your design before August 12.

Event

Guide: leaving China with pets

Relocating with pets doesn't need to be a hassle. Come join us as experts from the International Center for Veterinary Services teach you the correct exiting process and vaccination requirements, and also the most up-to-date regulations for EU countries and North America.

Where: Kent Center, 29 Liangmaqiao Lu, Anjialou, Chaoyang District (in the same courtyard as the Chinese Culture Center)

When: August 13, 11 am – noon

Cost: Free

Tel: 8456 1939

A walk through local Muslim quarters

The China Culture Center is organizing a stroll through a Muslim part of town in Xuanwu District. The tour includes meeting with local Muslim elders, a visit to a college that trains imams and wandering through hutong, where you'll see food stalls with a variety of different Muslim dishes. Please wear modest clothes in accordance with local Islamic customs.

Where: China Culture Center, Kent Centre A201, 29 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: August 10, 10 am – 1 pm

Cost: 120 yuan (including mosque admission fee)

Tel: 6432 9341

Gypsy jazz jam session

Enjoy a night of jazz over nice drinks. The session is hosted by the Hot Club of Beijing. Free beer is offered to anyone who performs and a special "Django" cocktail with absinth is only 40 yuan.

Where: Salud, 66 Nanluogu Xiang, Gulou, Dongcheng District

When: 9:30-11:30 pm, Tuesday every week

Cost: Free entrance

Tel: 6402 5086

(By Wei Xi)

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Try other kinds of football this August

By Yao, Weijie

This summer, people who love sports are lucky, as the International Exchange Camp and 2012 Mud Football World Championship will be held in Beijing.

Experiencing the real American football

International Exchange Camp, which brings American football to Beijing, will be held by Mashup Sport and Social and South Bay Youth Sports (SBYS) from August 27 to 28. A two-way youth exchange non-contact football program will be created by these two organizations.

Li Ke, 31, a copartner of Mashup Sport, has undertaken most of the organizational work. "Mashup Sport is a community made up of foreigners and foreign citizens of Chinese origin in China. Their Mandarin is not good, and that's why they asked me for help."

We cooperate with SBYS because it has professional coaches with nearly 50 years of experience, including former NFL players leading the camp.

Joe Wang, a famous coach from the University of Southern California, is the leader of the coaching group. He wants to provide young athletes with a safe and organized environment to play and develop the fundamentals of team sports.

"I began to know about non-contact football in 2008. It was interesting and I was excited about it. I think many Chinese parents don't want their children to attend



The Mud Football World Championship will be held in town from August 9 to 20.

CFP Photo

this sport because they think it may hurt children," said Li, "but they are wrong; the chance of being hurt is far lower for football than basketball. I want people to know that and make non-contact football more popular in China."

The camp will train Chinese coaches and youths about the non-contact football. The players will also experience American diplomacy and sportsmanship during the training.

The camp will also evaluate young athletes in the areas of the 40-yard dash, throwing, shuttle run, broad jump and many more drills. In early 2012, Beijing youths chosen from the camp will have a chance to visit the US and take part in non-contact football clinics and training sessions as they prepare for a non-contact

football tournament.

International Exchange Camp
Where: Beijing International Studies University (1 Dingfuzhuang Nan Li, Chaoyang District)

When: August 27-28, 9 am - 3 pm

Cost: 300 yuan, includes shirt, giveaways and Sunday autograph session

Tel: 13811391099 (Chinese), 15901202499 (English)

Website: bisu.edu.cn

Email: 65232371 @ qq.com, yoyao@mashupasia.com

Get muddy!

The Mud Football World Championship will be held in Beijing from August 9 to 20, organized jointly by the Beijing Olympic City Development Association, the United Kingdom Mud Football World Cup Organizing

Committee and Beijing North Sports company.

If you attend and win, you can participate in European competition tournaments on behalf of China.

This new, peculiar and special sports event, which has been held once a year since 2000, originated from Finland and then spread around Swedish, Holland, Russia, England, Brazil and other counties and zones famous for football. Nearly 260 professional teams around the world have participated.

"For the participants, it is a healthy and active lifestyle, which is more like a game than a sport; for the visitors, it can also be fun to watch. Visitors will find a serious and organized man make a fool of himself, and that's interesting," said Pan Hao, 32-year-old executive

director of North Sports.

"It is reported that 95 percent of participants think the mud sport is very interesting, and 75 percent are willing to enroll in it again," he added.

The rule of this competition is different from a normal soccer match. There are three divisions: an all-men's team, all-women's team and a mixed team. Anyone over 17 can participate.

The Mud Football World Championship in China is only accepting enrollment of mixed teams this year, which means every team should have at least one female player.

The game is 24 minutes, divided into two halves. "It's too tiring to run in mud for such long a time; consequently, we permit substitutions at any time. But the total number of players should be six at any one time," Pan said.

In addition, it doesn't matter if players don't know rules such as offside, as they just need to run and kick the ball.

If the game ends in a draw, the result will be decided by a mud penalty shootout.

2012 Mud Football World Championship

Where: Scenery Avenue, west of Bird Nest, Chaoyang District

When: August 9-20, 3-8 pm

Cost: Free

Tel: 5192 0691, 15011598151

Website: swampsoccerchina.net/ch/

Email: info.swampsoccercn@gmail.com

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BEIJING TODAY Editor: Wei Ying Designer: Zhao Yan

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Crisis of living

Center stage

Editor: He Jianwei Designer: Yang Gen

Ambiguous
Cut into Space
of Conjecture
by Herwig
Weiser



Banana Poetry
by Ina Krasic

"If you visit the science and technology museum, you will definitely feel the difference between art and science. Their exhibitions show the latest achievements of science and technology, which emphasize the application of science and technology. In the new media art exhibition, science and technology is only a medium to discuss social issues."



E-Shadow by Zane
Brazier & Jackson Fan

On the plaza of the National Art Museum of China (NAMOCC), a white tunnel extends to the entrance. Designed by the architect Ma Yansong, the *Weather Tunnel* is a microcosm of the world's living conditions, presented through 11 pieces of artwork.

Weather can be seen and heard in this tunnel. American artist Benjamin Bacon and Joe Saworth have an installation called *Electromechanical Solenoid Orchestra and Weather Ensemble*, using aggregated data from sensor networks to create a sound installation. Korean artist Zane Lee worked with the programmers to design a game called *Weather Pong v. 1.0*, combining Pong and Arkanoïd to present weather data from Seoul and Auckland.

If the weather in the cities is good, the game is easier for players. When the weather is worse, the game becomes more difficult. "During gameplay, the audience will have a chance to experience the relationship between nature and man," Lee said.

The artistic duo Helle – Helen Evans and Helle Hausen – also installed



Green Cloud by Helle



Nemo Observatorium
by Laurence Malafat



Greenhouse Converter by Ursula Damm

sensor kits in the tunnel that measure air quality in Beijing. The computer program transforms the data into visuals.

On the third floor of the museum, a screen shows a computer-generated cloud that constantly changes color. Different colors reflect different pollution levels – red signals the worst and blue the best. The cloud was yellow last Tuesday afternoon – Evans said it signified mild pollution downtown. The changing cloud on the screen reflects the concentrations of nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter in the air.

The duo insists on discussing air pollution in their works. At this exhibition, they present the video *Green Cloud*, made last year in France.

In it, they show clouds of vapor emitted by the largest waste incinerator in France on the edge of Paris at Ivry-sur-Seine, using a green laser beam to draw the cloud's outline.

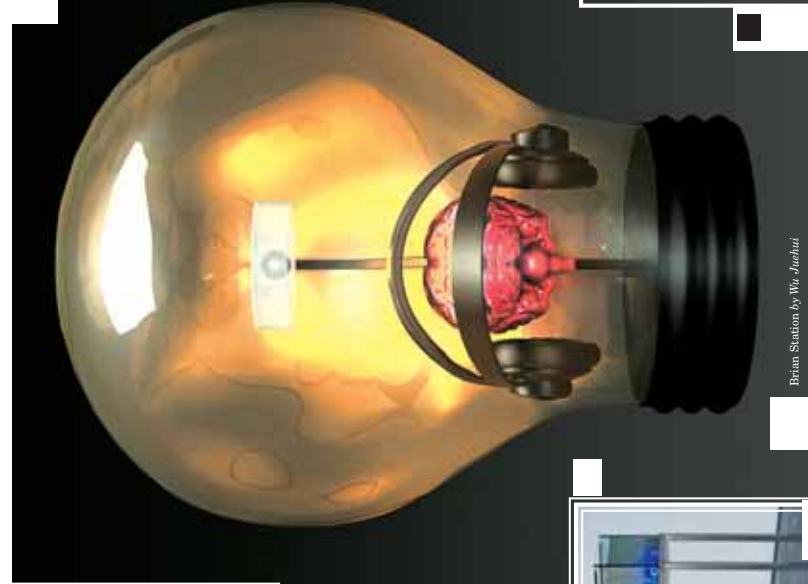
For the last two years, the project has attracted support from local citizens. It has been shown in Finland and France.

Their works haven't always been the most popular with local govern-

By He Jianwei

Human development has transformed nature and resulted in ecological disruption and climate change. The hole in the ozone layer, acid rain, deforestation, oil spills, radioactive plumes – these are all imprints of humanity's desire for development, whatever the cost. The International Triennial of New Media Art at the National Art Museum presents more than 50 works by 80 artists from 23 countries and regions, using technology to redefine man's relationship with the ecosystem and inform audiences of the crisis of sustainable living.

Exploring the relationship between human beings and nature through new media



Brain Station by Wu Jinchui



Artificial Moon by Wang Yiyong

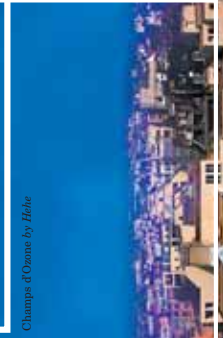


15 Minutes of
Bioscience
Future of Human
Race by
Helle & Zane

"The exhibition reflects the human relationship with nature and calls for citizens to participate in dealing with imminent challenges."



Slumlike Plant by Gilberto Espinoza



Champs d'Onnes by Helle



Lights Contact by Scenome

**Translife
– International Triennial
of New Media Art**

Where: National Art Museum of China, 1 Wisi Dajie, Dongcheng District
When: Until August 17, 9 am – 5 pm (no entry after 4 pm)
Admission: Free
Tel: 6400 6640

Photos provided by National Art Museum of China



BIT FLOW by
Julius Papp

The number of wheels symbolizes the number of hours on a clock and months in a year. In Landry's work, there is a sharp contrast between humanity's myopic attitudes toward exploration of nature and the eternity of cosmic time," Zhang said.

Other artists propose solutions for environmental issues. Croatian artist Ina Krasic's installation, *Banana Poetry*, seeks to generate alternative energy using fruit and vegetables. She first presented it in Zagreb, Croatia, and then in Beijing. In this exhibition, she chose humans as the energy source.

A program powered by lemons browses the Internet and analyzes texts. The program was written by using texts from Karl Marx's *Capital* and Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*, recipes of cookbooks and erotic literature. "Poetry" is randomly generated.

Krasic drew inspiration from her life in Croatia. "We had a tradition of reading poetry in my childhood. But today, poetry is not as popular as before. I miss the days of reading poetry beneath the kumara trees," she said.

ments. While residents and the power plant owner supported their project at Ivry-sur-Seine, local authorities prohibited them from shooting. In the end, they shot the film from a secret location on a resident's rooftop.

If Helle's project shows direct evidence of pollution, Chris Chafe and Greg Steinmeyer take a more subtle approach by illuminating the concentration of carbon dioxide in the installation *Tomato Quarter* using tomatoes ripening in the real world. Inside a tent are computer-controlled and calibrated according to the tomato's ripening. "The audience's breath accelerates the ripening process and, as a result, accelerates the music and light."

"It is a heuristic way to educate participants about ozone depletion," said Zhang Ga, the curator of the exhibition. "Artists can be activists, showing their concerns and discussing social issues in their works."

Canadian artist Diane Landry contemplates water resources in her installation *Knight of Infinite Respiration*, with 237 bottles filled with sand bound to 12 wheels. When the wheels rotate, the sand leaks out.

"Nature was the source of creation for poets. I hope artists can provide energy for today's creation, so I created this work with engineer Ivan Nikolic Lesh, who helped me design the program."

Although many works in this exhibition are the result of collaboration between artists and scientists, NAMOC director Fan Di'an said it is not an exhibition to popularize scientific knowledge.

"If you visit the science and technology museum, you will definitely feel the difference between art and science," Zhang said. "The exhibition shows the latest achievements of science and technology, which emphasize the application of science and technology. In the new media art exhibition, science and technology is only a medium to discuss social issues."

"The exhibition reflects the human relationship with nature and calls for citizens to participate in dealing with imminent challenges," Zhang said. "The goal is to 'advocate a new worldview of nature'."

This exhibition is the second new media art exhibition, following the *Synthetic Times* exhibition in 2008.

BEIJING TODAY

Editor: He Jianwei Designer: Yang Gen

Center stage

Piecing together history

By Wei Xi

Six years ago, Yu Shicun's *Extraordinary Sayings* (*Fei Chang Dao*) became a best-seller, depicting the words and deeds of prominent Chinese people that have influenced China in politics, economics and culture from 1840 to 1999.

In July, he continued this series and published *Extraordinary Sayings II*, providing the leftover records of 1,000 famous international figures in the 20th century and their opinions on a variety of subjects.

The majority of people in his book have laid the foundations for modern life. For example, Florence Nightingale furthered the idea of healing the wounded and rescuing the dying through hygiene standards. Gaining a brief understanding of their experiences and thoughts helps us to better understand the modern world, said Yu.

Like people who write Weibo messages, Yu writes each story in a condensed form.

He believes it is a waste of life if we waste our reading time, no matter how much we can learn during that time.

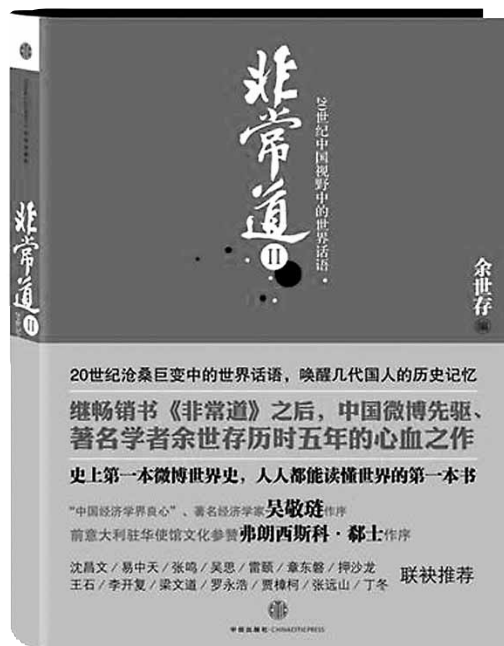
"This book is a very good one to spread common knowledge of the world," said Dong Xiyang, editor of the book.

"I gave less personal comment in this book, too," Yu said. "Because I hope my readers can form their own point of view towards the words and deeds of the famous, rather than let my opinions influence them."

Yu said over the years, people in China have developed a habit of looking for an author's opinion in a book, or concluding an opinion for the author, which would simplify their thoughts.

Yu took five years to read many biographies and autobiographies and to arrange and sort the materials. One of the most troublesome things was to check the translations of foreign names because different publications had different versions.

"Last summer, when I was doing the sorting in Beijing, I had only four to five hours of sleep each night," Yu said. "I was deeply immersed in the words and behaviors of the 1,000 people. It was as if they were my troops and I had to organize them into teams."



Extraordinary Sayings II (Fei Chang Dao)
By Yu Shicun, 416pp, China CITI Press, 42 yuan

Reality through a sci-fi lens



By Yao Weijie

Liu Cixin, one of the most prolific and popular science fiction writers in China, talked about the relationship between reality and science fiction at the Hong Kong International Book Fair on July 22.

As a literary genre, science fiction has pervaded almost all aspects of our lives to become a cultural and commercial symbol. Science fiction itself also offers a way to look at reality – something that is easily ignored by many people and worth a try, Liu said.

Liu demonstrates how to look at reality through the eyes of science fiction from environmental, economic, social and political perspectives.

Environmental concerns are well reflected in his trilogy *Three Body*. Liu features centuries-long contact and war with an alien civilization. In this series he argues that civilizations in the galaxy follow the law of the jungle: the distance prevents civilizations from trusting each

other, therefore all civilizations would assume others are dangerous. When one civilization is mature enough, they will hide themselves and attack those who expose their position.

At the end of the book, people on Earth bred from the "three body" culture finally choose the path of space exploration.

"There are lots of resources and cultures in outer space, as I said in my book. Protecting the environment on Earth to sustain its survival cannot stop the environment from worsening. If you consider resources and environment from a science fiction angle, the resources in outer space are endless and outer space exploration is a better way to protect our earth. This is what I mean by considering environmental issues from a science fiction angle," Liu said.

"It will be too late if we consider outer space exploration when the environment collapses, as outer space exploration

requires a long period of accumulation of technology, which is impossible over a short period of time. Our problem is, no one, including the public or government decisionmakers, has ever regarded outer space as a viable choice, and so they abandoned it," Liu said.

He hopes the public will at least know that exploration of outer space is a choice in protecting the earth. We should not just focus on terrestrial environmental protection.

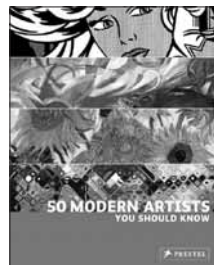
Liu began writing science fiction in the early 1990s. From 1999 to 2006 he was an eight-time winner of the Galaxy Award, the highest prize for science-fiction writing on the mainland.

The publication of his trilogy was regarded as an explosive incident and some people even thought Liu finally showed the true potential of Chinese science fiction. It is reported that the trilogy was the first science fiction novel edition from China to be bought by Hollywood.



Trends Lounge book listing

Located at The Place, Trends Lounge is a bookstore and cafe with a wide selection of books about international art, design and architecture.



50 Modern Artists You Should Know

By Christiane Weidemann, 160pp, Prestel USA, \$19.95

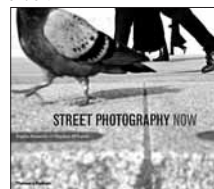
Around 150 years of masterpieces are covered in this chronologically arranged volume that captures the development of art in a new age. Starting with James Abbott McNeill Whistler and ending with Matthew Barney, this book shows how these prominent figures in modern art redefine norms and challenge tradition.



The Weimar Years: A Culture Cut Short

By John Willett, 160pp, Thames & Hudson, \$19.95

During the Weimar Republic (1919-1933), a distinctive culture evolved from the roots of the Modern Movement. It was a unique effort to bring the technical and artistic discoveries of the great prewar pioneers into common use, from the Cubists to Le Corbusier. This book assembles pictures showing how this artistic culture originated in the aftermath of World War I and the unsettled early years of the Weimar Republic, when there was an uneasy balance between revolutionary pretensions and the desire for order.



Street Photography Now

By Sophie Howarth and Stephen McLaren, 240pp, Thames & Hudson, \$29.95

This book includes 46 contemporary image-makers who are noted for their candid depictions of life on the streets. They show life in the subways, at shopping malls and movie theaters, and on beaches and in parks, together with individual biographies illuminating the stories behind their pictures of New York, Tokyo, Delhi and Dakar.

(By He Jianwei)

The art of display

By Chu Meng

Since the classic iconography of Audrey Hepburn dwelling in front of a display window of luxury jewelry brand Tiffany in the movie *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, the glory and importance of window display design has been a vital part of fashion.

In China, where the fashion industry has only just begun to develop, window display design is still a cutting-edge career and sounds strange to many people. However, a small group of people in Beijing have begun to test the waters.



Zhang Yanqing, a top Chinese window display designer

Photos provided by Liu Yinxing

Although the role of fashion display designer is as highly regarded as that of a fashion designer in many European countries, the role is very new in China. The history of fashion display design in China only dates back five years. For most Chinese people, even ones working in the fashion industry, the job of fashion display designer still sounds strange and abstract.

"We are sometimes the narrator of fashion, telling consumers what a piece of clothing or pair of shoes really is by various visual means. Sometimes we are the organizers of the fashion products, making sure their order is correct so we can express the brand as a whole," said Zhang Yanqing, one of China's top display designers. He is 27 years old, but witnessed the birth of this career in China.



A work sample of window display design from Cohim Fashion Training Organization

Zhang graduated from Tianjin Polytechnic University as a costume design major in 2005. At the time, Zhang did not know anything about fashion display design at all.

While working as a store manager at Vero Moda at Shin Kong Place for two years, a high-ending shopping center in the Central Business District in Beijing, he gradually became addicted to the seasonally changing display windows of luxury brands like Giorgio Armani, Bvlgari and Calvin Klein.

"Their windows and sales fields are all creative, radiant



A sales field of BALIX, designed by Zhang Yanqing in Beijing

and attractive. But each bears their exclusive air and taste, clearly distinguishing one from the other," he said. He wondered why domestic brands could not do the same thing.

One day, he happened to meet his university classmate, Zhang Xi, who was working as a display assistant for Max & Mara. From her, he learned basic knowledge about display design and resigned to take his first professional course from the Cohim Fashion Training Organization in 2007.

Established in Beijing in 2004, Cohim is one of the first professional fashion training organizations born in China. It provides courses in fashion sub-disciplines like window display design, sales field display design, home furniture and accessory display design and commercial lighting design.

According to Liu Yinxing, a senior consultant from Cohim, only Beijing and Shanghai have such professional training organizations in China, for only these two cities have developed their fashion industry to a suitable level.

The one-year full-time professional training course corrected a lot of Zhang's misunderstandings. "Before, I assumed window display is just to put all new arrival items together, decorate them with some flower bunches and other beautiful things. I made a huge mistake by thinking this."

"Creating a display should help a clothes designer express his direct sense of aesthetics through every single corner of the brand's sales field, windows and deliberately arranged product sequences. A successful display designer should be able to create an exciting, unexpected and profound experience in space and atmosphere for clients, and at the same time, maintain brand clarity," he said.

He said Giorgio Armani inspired him to become a display designer.

If a sales field and a window are the stages to demonstrate a fashion brand, a display designer is a director, helping to interpret the collection,



Students work on a display design assignment in Cohim.

Zhang said.

He has spent most of his spare time "window shopping." "I need to learn from brilliant window and sales field designs from successful luxury brands, getting to know decoration elements they use and any hints of new trends in their design," he said "For example, in 2009, I found multimedia devices and tools had been largely adopted by Giorgio Armani's windows."

So far, Zhang has become one of the most dynamic Chinese display designers, even working for Calvin Klein, Fendi, Diesel, Liu Jo and BALIX.

"Professional knowledge about interior design, costume design, color theory and light theory is a must. Sometimes, architecture studies, movie studies, artistic device studies



The Hermès style window display was designed by students from Cohim.

For sales field display, the concepts are similar. A good display design should present logical and clean divisions, separating different functional products. It should also prolong the time that customers spend in the store and make them feel comfortable in the environment.

For top brands, background music selection and spotlight arrangement are very deliberately designed. Even fragrances are used in the air, providing customers with an exclusive identity that taps into all their senses. If people love the smell in a store, they would prefer to shop there for a longer period of time and pay repeated visits in the future.

However, compared with top brands, most of China's domestic clothes brands are still closed to the importance of display design. They either have no windows or just display products like dated food retail vendors, simply putting one piece after another.

Although professional display design originated with Italian luxury clothing and bag brands, the career has now broadened to other luxury industries like jewelry, glasses and watches. Their product exhibition is manipulated by display designers to sell their most profitable product pieces and establish a noble brand appearance, he said.

Display design is also being adopted by coffee shops, restaurants and hotels in order to attract more loyal clients.

"The trend could be found in foreign brands in China, such as Starbucks, Haagen-Dazs, Page One Bookstores and IKEA. It can hardly be found in Chinese ones," he pointed out.

At the same time, a display designer has to master the frequent changes needed to keep displays current. Every brand has its own goods update cycle, which is generally every 10 days.

Updating to promote the sale of new goods is very effective. Generally, two days after renewal, sales will have an obvious growth. In fact, the goods did not change at all. Only the position is changed to give a new and fresh feeling. Updating particularly helps for long-term, repeat customers, as they will soon notice and respond to changes.

"In fact every brand and every design has its own soul. If my work can help express this soul correctly to target customers, then it is valuable," Zhang said.



and psychology studies are essential support for good designers," he said.

"For example, I might match the simple Greek Parthenon decoration elements with clean color selections reminiscent of 1970s movies," he said.

Through a window, a brand needs to continually foster its distinguished and permanent brand spirit for customers, attracting target clients while excluding others.

Get closer to a hutong dream house

By Annie Wei

Last Saturday, Lost and Found opened its second store at the west entrance of Guozijian Jie, the same street as its first store that opened in 2008.

But unlike its first store, which is packed with 1980s-style furniture, clothes, home accessories and kitchenware, this new one is more spacious and has an altogether different feel.

The store is a two-floor hutong house with glass walls, a glass rooftop, wooden floors and garden. All in all, it's more like a home than a shop.

On display are furniture and well-made ceramic products from different designers and linen work from Japan.

Visitors can even ask for a cup of

fresh-brewed coffee and enjoy it while resting on a sofa.

Yuan Yue, media executive of Lost and Found, said the store aims to be an "experience space," as well as a platform for consumers and designers to share their passion towards the beautiful things in life.

The store mainly sells its own brand products, but also displays independent designers' work, as well as a place to host some themed events in the future.

Lost and Found II

Where: 57 Guozijian Jie, Dongcheng District

Open: 10:30 am – 8 pm

Tel: 6400 1174



The new store's front door



A small garden inside the store, where many plants grow.

Ceramic artist Han Yunfei, a graduate of the China Academy of Art, said his work is simple and practical. "I enjoy the creation process and the tender changing of the shape of clay in my hands. I try to turn every line and little decoration into simple and gorgeous shapes," he said. His work starts at 150 yuan for a cup.



Ceramic artist Jui-yun Hsu was born in Taiwan and majored in fine art at Kwantlen University College in Vancouver. She sees special high-fire glazing as a challenge and also focuses on creating bolder, brighter and braver under-glazed paintings. She works in limited edition and one-off pieces. Small cups also start from 150 yuan.



Indian fabric, made of cotton, is soft with beautiful patterns. A fabric worker has to carve patterns on a piece of wood and use it to print dye on the clothing. The clothing will then be washed softly and dried. The sophisticated patterns need to be printed several times, then washed and dried each time. Bed sheets start at 358 yuan, and scarves at 138 yuan.



The second floor of Lost and Found II
Photos by Yair/Lost & Found

Cozy restaurant offers close dining experience with the chef

By Annie Wei

Kitchen Igosso is a small diner in a neighborhood of six-floor, red-brick buildings, a noisy local market and plenty of local eateries.

But walking into the restaurant gives you a different feeling altogether: its tall ceiling, wood floor and open kitchen make it just the place for a cozy, romantic dinner.

Morihisa Fujisaki, board chairman of the company, said he was influenced by his love of Italian culture when he helped open Kitchen Igosso, but that the restaurant is based more on Mediterranean dining culture.

Fujisaki has also added another element: Japanese cocktail bar culture.

"Few restaurants have a dining area in an open kitchen," he said. When a diner comes in, he or she can talk to the chef directly about what kind of food they want. The chef will then make recommendations.

"It's like going to see a doctor," Fujisaki said. According to a customer's feeling or mood, the chef will adjust the order accordingly.

At the corner of the bar is a greasy, shiny Spanish ham leg. "Having one or two ham legs in a Mediterranean restaurant is common in Japan," he said.

A ham leg can be preserved at low room temperatures for up to a month. "You cannot place them in a fridge because its taste will change," Fujisaki said.

The restaurant chef is also Japanese, though he has four years of cooking experience in Piedmont, Italy, where he liked to use wild mountain animals as ingredients.

"It's a pity you cannot find the same things here," Fujisaki said. Local ingredients cannot create an authentic taste. The restaurant tries its best, though, by using local vegetables and some local meat.

The menu includes a few pages of regular dishes. The most popular ones include roast lamb rack (180 yuan) and hamburger steak with brawn sauce (88 yuan).

The key to making a delicious rack of lamb depends on the lamb quality. Fujisaki said they searched a long time for a quality supplier. "Most lamb racks you see in the market have a thin layer of meat, but ours are meaty and tender," he said.

Diners who like pasta can find homemade squid ink spaghetti (70 yuan). The restaurant has two kinds: in one, the pasta is made with squid ink, and in the other the pasta is served with strong squid ink sauce. The latter has a stronger squid flavor.

The most popular dishes are from menus written on two blackboards hanging in the restaurant. They are seasonal and change every few days.

We recommend homemade pasta with sea urchin (88 yuan) and peach tiramisu (48 yuan).

The restaurant can only hold 36 diners. Advanced booking is recommended. There is a small cellar with 50 kinds of wine, starting from 40 yuan per glass.

Kitchen Igosso

Where: 23 Guandongdian Bei Jie, Chaoyang District

Open: 11:30 am - 2 pm, 5:30-11 pm

Tel: 6592 4563



Roast lamb rack, 180 yuan



Peach tiramisu, 48 yuan



Imported Spanish ham

Photos provided by Kitchen Igosso



Sweet and sour filefish, 38 yuan per 500 grams



The restaurant's front door



Pork aorta, 24 yuan

Photos provided by Hongjianguhu Hao'eryu

Newly opened filefish hotpot

By Annie Wei

If you're an expat who doesn't enjoy hotpot, you probably don't have enough local friends.

The Hongjianguhu Hao'eryu Hotpot is a newly opened restaurant near the Jiandemen subway station on Line 10. It is sure to be a place that attracts both university students and young professionals alike.

Hao'eryu is the Sichuan way of saying "filefish," which has a mouse-like face.

Owner Gao Tao decided to open a filefish hotpot restaurant after a trip to Siguniang Mountain in Sichuan Province.

"Filefish hotpot is popular in Sichuan but not really found in Beijing," said Gao, who entered the restaurant business only eight months ago. "I really like its flavor."

Filefish is abundant along China's coastline. The fish has a thick and rough skin, so unlike other

Chinese fish, they are peeled – and the head removed – before being shipped.

Filefish has small bones and its texture resembles McDonald's fillet-o-fish. In South Korea, it's a popular snack when dried, tasting salty and a bit sweet, often roasted before eating.

To make quality hotpot, the soup is key. Gao said his restaurant uses 38 ingredients to prepare the soup, and has especially good rapeseed oil. Rapeseed flowers are common in southern China. Like flaxseed oil, rapeseed oil is rich in omega-3 and has a fish oil quality to it.

For a typical Sichuan hotpot flavor, try the hongyou soup (28 yuan), an oily, red pepper soup that tastes spicy and has a strong chili fragrance. If you are not ready for the heavy spice, you can try the suancai soup (18 yuan), made with pickled vegetables.

Filefish starts at 38 yuan per 500 grams. Other ingredients good for the hotpot include huanghou, or pork aorta (24 yuan) – the crispiest and most tender in town.

"The secret is we re-process it after buying from the supplier," Gao said.

The filefish come in many forms: deep-fried and crispy, sweet and sour or chili-fried.

Other hotpot ingredients are also inexpensive: all vegetables are 8 yuan, tofu is 8 yuan and mushrooms are 10 yuan.

For cold dishes, we like the homemade Sichuan pickles (5 yuan) and pickled chili with catfish skin (22 yuan).

Hongjianguhu Haoeryu

Where: 150 meters south of the first spotlight at the west end of Deshengqiao, Madian Dong Lu, Haidian District

Open: 11 am - 2 pm, 5-11 pm
Tel: 6202 0665

Tracing personal history

By He Jianwei

Naming her works after addresses from her birthplace to her current home, Ma Qiusha explores themes of memory, personal identity and family dynamics in her latest exhibition at the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA).

Decorated as a living room, the exhibition room contains her paintings, video and installation. One wall displays her self-portraits spanning the years from childhood drawing class to the Central Academy of Fine Arts High School. She saves such names to this series as *From No. 7 Nan Lishi Lu Santiao to No. 1 Shouchang Jie* and *No. 24A Meishuguan Dongjie*, including the addresses where she took the classes.

Born in 1982, Ma is an only child. Most of her works show not only her own experience, but also represent the memories of her generation.

For instance, in *No. 4 Tianqiao Beili*, Ma retells her art experiences from childhood to college

with a blade in her mouth. Her narration is a confession of conflict with both parents and society. She describes being compelled to strive for perfection and talks about her search for meaning and understanding. She strains every nerve to win her parents' approval and worries about her value to society as an artist and a daughter.

She grew up in an era where families had only one child and gave that child their love in the hope they would be a success. The blade hidden in her mouth is a symbol of pain. "At the end of the video, I remove the razor blade from my mouth. Though I love my mother deeply, that love is often fraught with pain," Ma said.

In the work *No. 43 Pingshanda*, she recalls her maternal grandfather's odd habit of saving the stubble from his beard

every time he shaved. He saved the stubble in little glass bottles, labeled with the year from 1984 to 2010.

After her grandpa passed away last year, Ma rescued the 27 bottles, one for each year, from a pile of his things the relatives had thrown away. "My grandpa's stubble collection is 27 years old, two years younger than me," she said. "He was the only relative who did not spoil me and I often quarreled with him. I found the reason why he seemed like a strange bird in the family was that he, like me, had been an only child."

Ma Qiusha - Address

Where: Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until September 8, daily except Mondays, 10 am - 6 pm

Admission: 15 yuan, 10 yuan for students
Tel: 8459 9269



Saturday, August 6

Movie Adolescence of an Era (2011)

This film documents the June photo exhibition of Chai Dongxin, who has taken pictures of the Chinese rock scene over the past two decades.

Where: Mako Livehouse, 36 Guangqu Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 2:30 pm
Admission: 20 yuan
Tel: 5205 1112

Exhibition



Du Kun - His Kingdom

Du reveals what he imagined to be end-of-the-world scenarios: burning fires, suffocating smoke, collapsed buildings and damaged cars.

Where: Mizuma and One Gallery, 241 Caochangdi Village, Chaoyang District

When: Until August 28, daily except Monday and Tuesday, 10 am - 6 pm

Admission: Free
Tel: 5127 3267

Nightlife



Punk in Love

More than 12 local punk bands including Brian Failure, SUBS and Return the Truth celebrate Chinese Valentine's Day, the seventh day of the seventh lunar month on the Chinese calendar.

Where: Mao Livehouse, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District
When: 6:18 pm
Admission: 77 yuan advance purchase, 100 yuan on the door
Tel: 6402 5080

Friday, August 5

Movie On Tour (2010)

A former Parisian TV producer returns from the US to France with a team of New Burlesque striptease performers, whom he has filled with romantic dreams of a tour of France.

Where: Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District
When: 4 pm
Admission: 15 yuan, 10 yuan for students
Tel: 8459 9269

Nightlife

All My Faith Lost ...

The Italian folk duo focuses on the enchanted world of the faeries, infusing guitar with piano, flute and even computer graphics.

Where: The One Club, Building 5, 718 Art and Culture Zone, 19 Ganluyuan, Gaobeidian Bei Lu, Chaoyang District
When: 7:30 pm

Admission: 180 yuan, 280 yuan for VIP
Tel: 400 898 8383

Exhibition

Timeless Elegance - Ma Yanling Solo Exhibition

Ma paints beauties such as Marilyn Monroe, Audrey Hepburn and Chinese actress Zhou Xuan using Chinese ink on canvas.

Where: Dialogue Space, 22 International Art Plaza, 32 Baizwan Lu, Chaoyang District
When: Until August 28, daily except Monday, 10 am - 6:30 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 8576 9392



Sunday, August 7

Exhibition Cell - Qiu Zhijie Solo Exhibition

This exhibition presents Qiu's honeycomb-like installations, which are woven using split bamboo.

Where: Pace Beijing, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until September 3, daily except Monday, 10 am - 6 pm

Admission: Free
Tel: 5978 9781

Nightlife

Charity Performance for Tong Yan

Six folk musicians from local label Mayouye perform for folk musician Tong Yan, who is the founder of the label Daomadan and has fallen ill with leukemia.

Where: Jianghu Bar, 7 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiaodaokou Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 8:30 pm
Admission: 40 yuan
Tel: 6401 4611

Movie

Weaving Girl (2009)

Directed by Wang Quan'an, the film is about a young textile worker leaving her unhappy marriage when she is diagnosed with cancer and unable to afford treatment.

Where: Broadway Cinematheque, 2/F Building 4, north section of Museum of Modern Art (MOMA), 1 Xiangheyuan

Lu, Dongcheng District
When: 7:30 pm
Admission: 40 yuan
Tel: 8438 8258 ext. 8008



Upcoming

Nightlife Simple Plan

The Canadian punk pop band released their latest album, *Get Your Heart On*, last month.

Where: Star Live, 79 Hepingli Xi Jie, Yonghegong, Dongcheng District

When: August 10, 9 pm

Admission: 260 yuan advance purchase, 350 yuan on the door
Tel: 6425 5677

Stage in September

Concert

Ivo Janssen Piano Recital

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), 18 Zhaodengyu Lu, Xicheng District

When: September 5, 7:30 pm

Admission: 30-380 yuan

Tel: 6417 7845

Peter Serkin Piano Recital

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: September 6, 7:30 pm

Admission: 80-480 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Michael Kaeshammer Jazz Piano Concert

Where: Beijing Concert Hall, 1

Bei Xinhua Jie, Xicheng District

When: September 15, 7:30 pm

Admission: 80-880 yuan

Tel: 5166 1145

Dance

Vancouver Goh Ballet

Youth Company China Tour

Where: Peking University Hall,

5 Yiheyuan Lu, Haidian District

When: September 10, 7:30 pm

Admission: 120-200 yuan

Tel: 6275 8452

La Sylphide by Guangzhou Ballet

Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: September 15-16,

7:30 pm

Admission: 80-400 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Drama

Five Acts of Life

Where: PLA Theater, 60 Deshengmen Nei Dajie (southeast corner of Jishuitan Qiao), Xicheng District

When: September 14-18,

7:30 pm

Admission: 60-580 yuan

Tel: 6406 8888

Wangfujing

Where: Theater Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: September 28-30,

7:30 pm

Admission: 180-580 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Opera

Donizetti's Opera: L'elisir d'Amore

Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: September 10-13,

7:30 pm

Admission: 100-580 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

(By He Jianwei)

Create your own facial mask at home

By Li Zhixin

The Hong Kong Consumer Council recently announced that 17 well-known facial mask brands were detected to probably contain excessive P-hydroxybenzoic acid (PHBA) – an antiseptic which can easily cause allergies.

Wang Xin, a dermatologist at the First Hospital of Tsinghua University, said that many facial allergy cases are caused by masks. "Besides antiseptics, antibiotics and mercury are also common ingredients in cosmetics, especially those products which treat acne or lead to whitening."

"In order to prevent the spread of microorganisms and prolong the quality guarantee period, it is inevitable that many cosmetics contain antiseptics," said Yuan Lin, the spokesman of the Beijing Food and Drug Administration (BFDA). "But the supervision administration will test them at random periods to make sure they are within safe limits."

According to the BFDA, the preservative content limit for cosmetics is 0.3 percent.



17 contaminated masks

- Beautiella Aqua Mild Sleeping Mask
- Bio-essence Tri-Action Aqua Boost Sleeping Mask
- O'slee Clear Spa Sleeping Mask
- Watsons Collagen Hydrating Sleeping Mask
- Solwasoo Overnight Vitalizing Treatment
- Herborn Whitening & Nourishing Mask
- Regene Moist Balancing Mask
- Skin Food Fermented Pomegranate Whitening Sleeping Mask
- Uriage AquaPrecis Moisturizing Express Mask
- Shiseido Moisture Relaxing Mask
- Biotherm Aquasource Non-stop SOS Hydration Mask
- Chanel HYDRAMAX + ACTIVE Moisture Mask
- Tonymoly Tomato Brightening Mask
- Cosline Strawberry Yogurt Pack
- L'OREAL Hydrafresh Water-plumping Mask
- The Body Shop Vitamin E Sink-in Moisture Mask
- Kiehl's Soothing Gel-masque

DIY masks

If you worry that masks sold in the cosmetic shops may contain excessive amounts of preservatives, why don't you make masks yourself at home? Here are some solutions:

1. Cucumber mask

Mix one small cucumber and one cup of oatmeal together and then mix the paste with three teaspoons of yogurt (for oily skin) or milk (for dry skin). Apply the paste on your face for 15 minutes and then rinse.

2. Honey mask

Wash your face with warm water to open up the pores. Apply honey and leave for half an hour. Rinse with warm water and then use cold water to close the pores.

3. Turmeric mask

Make a paste by mixing two teaspoons of turmeric powder, two teaspoons of sandalwood powder, and two teaspoons of ghee or almond oil with water. Apply the paste to the face and leave for 5 to 10 minutes.

4. Avocado mask

Mash the flesh of the avocado into a creamy texture and apply it thoroughly on the face. Leave for 15 to 20 minutes, rinse with warm water and then use cold water to close the pores.

5. Banana mask

Make a paste by mashing half a banana until very creamy and apply it on the face, leaving it for 15 to 20 minutes. Alternatively, make a paste by mashing half a cup of yogurt, one tablespoon of honey and half a banana and apply this pack on the face and neck and leave for 10 minutes. This mask can be good for dry skin.

6. Brewer's yeast mask

Mix one teaspoon of brewer's yeast with yogurt, apply it into the oily areas and leave it for 12 minutes.

7. Egg white mask

Mix one beaten egg white with freshly squeezed lemon juice and apply it on your face. Leave it on overnight before rinsing your face with warm water.

8. Oatmeal mask

Take two teaspoons of oatmeal and one teaspoon of baking soda and add water to make a paste. Apply it to your face for 30 minutes and rub gently when you rinse your face.

9. Watermelon mask

Peel off the skin of the watermelon and mash the white flesh into a paste. Apply it on your face for 10 minutes and then rinse your face. Do this twice a week. This mask can supposedly help with hydration and whitening.

10. Wine mask

Pour 50 to 80 milliliters of wine into an empty glass and then put the glass in boiled water for 20 minutes in order to evaporate some of the alcohol. Mix two teaspoons of honey and three teaspoons of pearl powder with the wine after it cools. Apply the mask on your face for 20 minutes and rinse with warm water. This mask is supposed to be good for the skin's ability to retain moisture.

Tips to prevent facial skin allergies:

1. Avoid irritants like pollen, bug dust, catkin, perfume or vehicle exhaust fumes that can cause allergies.
2. Use food products and cosmetics without preservatives.
3. Use mild soaps and avoid contact with detergents.
4. Use a damp cloth to dust when you clean your room.
5. Avoid keeping pets.
6. Avoid hot, spicy and fried food as well red meat and eggs.
7. Avoid smoke and alcohol as they can aggravate allergic conditions.
8. Avoid sun exposure.
9. Clean air conditioner filters and duct filters every three months.
10. Wash fruits and vegetables thoroughly before eating them.

Chic island breaks

By Zhang Dongya

Around Beijing are several small islands with fancy names such as Jadeite Island and Quarter Moon Island, that have been recently developed, with clean water and a less commercial feel.

Taking the family or a couple of friends to the islands to spend a cozy and cool weekend is a great choice during the hottest time of the year.



Desert mingled with sea

The Golden Coastline in Changli County is located between Laoting and Nandaihe. Compared with Beidaihe, Changli is a less-developed seashore resort, with fewer commercial shops. It has a coastline as long as 52 kilometers.

Comparatively speaking, the beach on Golden Coastline has fine and smooth sand. Walking on it, you will not feel any stones, just soft sand. Viewing the golden beach, it seems as if you are in the Gobi Desert. Meanwhile, on the other side of the coastline is a broad sea.

It is said that the sand was sifted when the beach opened. Some shops hired workers to sieve the sand around their stores to achieve fine and smooth sand.

The names of roads on the Golden Coastline are interesting, as you can trace the progress of tourism development. The north-south roads are named "latitude," while the west-east roads are named "longitude." The road near the coastline is called Yijing Lu, or the Road of First Longitude, and then the Road of Second Longitude and so on.

Traveling from Changli County to the Golden Coastline, you will arrive in Yiwei Lu, or the Road of First Latitude. It is the most crowded road, with many people and vehicles. You can walk to Wuwei Lu, or the

Road of Fifth Latitude, where things are much quieter.

Jadeite Island, located to the south of the Golden Coastline in Changli, has both golden sand and green vegetation. With large area of locust trees in the sand, it looks like jadeite embedded in a desert, hence its name.

It is an ideal home for hundreds species of birds, including 68 species that are listed as protected birds. Bird lovers flock to the island in the early spring to catch sight of these beauties. It is said you can see one third of all species in the country.

The place to bathe in the sea at Jadeite Island is far from the living areas, which keeps the water clean. The inshore water is shallow and the tide here is flat, which is suitable for children.

On Jadeite Island, you can see the particular landform of Changli with its many sand dunes. The lower sand dunes are some 10 meters high, while the tall ones are dozens of meters high. The view will make you feel you are in a desert.

Some Beijingers buy seaside apartments along the coastline so that they can spend two months there every summer. Others will pitch a tent on the seashore to spend a couple of days. They barbecue to feed themselves and stargaze while lying on the sand at night.

Continued on page 21...



Great for a cozy weekend by the sea

CFP Photo



Visitors can hire water bicycles, speed boats and beach motorcycles on the island.

CFP Photo



Jadeite Island has fine and smooth sand and it seems as if you are in the Gobi desert.

Photos by Laojia Aise



Dutch style wooden cottages on Quarter Moon Island

CFP Photos



There are many sand dunes on Jadeite Island.

Photo by Lianxiang



In August, sunrise happens at 5 am on Jadeite Island.

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Visitors who want to watch the sunrise over the sea should get up early, according to the timetable of the sunrise on the island. In August, it usually happens at 5 am, but to be safe you should get there 90 minutes in advance.

Jadeite Island

Where: south of Golden Coastline Tourism District, Changli County, Hebei Province

Getting there: Take the long-distance bus to Qinghuangdao or Beidaihe. Then take a taxi to the Golden Coastline, which costs about 60 yuan. Or you can drive along the Beijing-Harbin Highway and take exit 247, then drive along Fuchanghuang Expressway to Yanhai Lu. You will see signs on the right.

Admission: 55 yuan
Open: 8 am - 6 pm
Tel: 0335-2215521

Note: parking is free.

Activities on Jadeite Island:

Camel ride: 30 yuan for a single trip; 50 yuan for round trip

Camping: 30 yuan for each tent.

Rent a tent: 120 yuan for a two-person tent with two sleeping bags, two moisture-proof pads and one lamp; 200 yuan for a three-person tent with three sleeping bags, three moisture-proof pads and one lamp.

The Dutch flavor of Quarter Moon Island

Yuetuo Island, or Moon Island, is located in the southwest of Laoting County in Hebei Province. It gained its name because the island is shaped like a crescent.

It is tranquil and isolated, with fewer visitors compared with other seashore

areas. On the island, the striking sight is a large area of wooden cottages over the sea. Fashioned in a Dutch style, the blue cottages are small and cute, covered with yellow and orange roofs.

Housing two people, each cottage is equipped with a tatami and simple facilities for washing. It does not have a separate toilet. It is a unique experience to stay a night at the small cottage, listening to the tide.

There are many water recreational facilities such as water bicycles, speed boats and beach motorcycles.

It is recommended to have seafood at the restaurants on the island. Seafood is served fresh and at a good price. Locals also plant vegetables and fruits on the island that visitors can pick and take home. Tomatoes, cucumbers and melons are all fresh and tempting.

If you get up early you are sure to catch many crabs. People who want to sail have to wait until 11:30 am for the boats at the dock. If you are lucky, you can go fishing with some of the locals on their boats.

Quarter Moon Island

Where: Southeast of Laoting County, Tangshan, Hebei Province

Getting there: Drive along Beijing-Harbin Highway and take the Tangshan Xi exit. Drive along Tangcao Highway, Yanhai Highway and take the Laoting Nanbeigang exit. Turn left and drive to Sandao Dock. It takes about four hours.

Admission: 60 yuan
Tel: 0315-4948303

Accommodation: 260 yuan per room for a wooden cottage without toilet, 380 yuan per room for a wooden cottage with toilet.



Photo by Ding Ma

Dining

Dumpling delight

Since ancient times, the Chinese have believed that wealth accompanies dumplings, as they are shaped like ancient ingots of gold or silver. Let us relive this ancient tradition with refined yet original recipes, with a choice of pan-fried or boiled, round- or crescent-shaped dumplings, all tasting great. Filled with meat, vegetables, eggs and seafood, it is amazing what you can hold between a pair of chopsticks.

Where: China World Hotel, 1 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

When: August 1-14

Tel: 6505 2266 ext. 35

Swiss wine promotion

Explore the flavor-filled world of Swiss wines; a bottle of white goes for 400 yuan and a bottle of red is 500 yuan. The Flow Bar & Lounge team will spoil you with a complimentary Swiss Mezze Platter for every bottle served.

Where: Flow Bar & Lounge, Swissotel Beijing, 2 Chaoyangmen Bei Dajie, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6553 2288 ext. Flow Bar & Lounge

Cost: Subject to 15 percent service charge



Singapore Food Festival at Grand Millennium Beijing

Grand Millennium Beijing invites you to a gastronomic delight. Dine sumptuously on a choice of Singapore satay, Singapore's famous version of Hainanese roasted chicken rice, Bak Kut Teh, chili crab, cereal prawn and many more, all specially prepared by Charlie Chang, our executive

chef from Singapore.

Where: Grand Millennium Beijing, Fortune Plaza, 7 Dong Sanhuan Zhong Lu, Chaoyang District

When: August 1-12

Cost: Buffet dinner at 256 yuan per person, 20 percent off for Singaporean guests with Singaporean passport (subject to 15 percent service charge)

Tel: 8587 6888 ext. 3012



Martini night

Enjoy martini night at First Lounge Bar with a live band and complimentary snacks.

Buy one, get one free on all martini cocktails.

Where: Park Plaza, 97 Jinbao Jie, Dongcheng District

When: Every Thursday, 7 pm - midnight

Tel: 8522 1999 ext. 3607

Guizhou cuisine

Intensely flavorful, vibrantly diverse and brilliantly colorful are just some of the expressions that capture the essence of Guizhou food. Come to Summer Palace this month when guest chef Jiang serves up sour and spicy signature dishes such as "Boiled Sliced Fish in Sour Broth" and "Marinated Sausage Guizhou Flavor." Chef Jiang will entertain you with his amazing skills, which have earned him much recognition.

Where: China World Hotel, 1 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

When: August 8-21

Tel: 6505 2266 ext. 34

Event

Turkish flavor and rhythm begins in Beijing

A one-week Turkish food festival will be launched by the Turkish Embassy and its Culture and Tourism Section on Saturday at The Kempinski Beijing to celebrate the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and Turkey.

"Turkish cuisine is always a pleasant surprise for food lovers," said Ilknur Yigit, counselor of the Turkish Embassy's Culture and Tourism Section. "We are very glad to choose Kempinski, the first luxury European hotel brand to co-host the event, and introduce Turkish cuisine to Chinese guests."

Turkish dance is an inseparable part of the festival. A cultural troupe is there to perform the whole week in the hotel's all-day-dining restaurant.

People can also experience famous Turkish coffee in the Lobby Lounge during the festival.

The Turkish food promotion is open for dinner at 6 pm every day until August 12.

China International Design Competition: 2012 Year of the Dragon

The ultimate Chinese cultural symbol is the dragon. In anticipation of the auspicious year, AIGA China has partnered with PoloArts to support the first annual China International Design Competition: 2012 Year of the Dragon.

Entries will be accepted through September 27 in the areas of graphic design, digital and multimedia design, installation design and product design. See www.cidc2012.org for entry requirements. A panel of judges comprising international designers and Chinese celebrities will award 100 winners whose works will be exhibited at Beijing's Capital Museum in January 2012.

Summer sailing camps

Let your children wake up to a new adventure this summer! Beijing Sailing Center is offering a series of five-day sleepover sailing camps for children between the ages of 8 and 18, with or without parents. Beginner, intermediate and advanced sailing qualifications are covered. The focus of these sailing courses is fun with water games.

Cost: 4,900 yuan per student, includes transportation, hotel, barbecued food and sailing. All packages are subject to terms and conditions.

Where: Beijing Sailing Center, 5005, 5th floor, Zone A, Chaowai SOHO, 6B Chaoyangmen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

Tel: 5900 0276

Email: sailing@beijingsailing.com

Hotel

Exquisitely packaged mooncake gift box from Crowne Plaza Beijing Chaoyang U-Town

Crowne Plaza Beijing Chaoyang U-Town has prepared two varieties of mooncake boxes (U-Town Moonlight Luxury Box and Crowne Moonlight Superior Box) to welcome the coming Mid-Autumn Festival.

The hotel provides various mooncakes lightly glazed and perfectly baked with a unique taste. The U-Town Moonlight Luxury Box contains eight cakes with fillings including white lotus seed paste with egg yolk, red lotus seed paste with egg yolk, black sesame paste, green tea smoothie, blueberry with cheese and purple yam. The Crowne Moonlight Superior Box consists of six cakes with white lotus seed paste with egg yolk, red lotus seed paste with egg yolk, custard cream, purple yam, red bean and blueberry with cheese.

The mooncake package is designed to be traditional yet modern. The two kinds of mooncake boxes are packaged with red fabric, reflecting traditional Chinese aesthetics. The cover features red peonies with a gold background, symbolizing happiness and prosperity.

Our dedicated staff will be guarantee a smooth ordering process.



Where: Crowne Plaza Beijing Chaoyang U-Town, 3 Sanfeng North Area (southeast of Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Chaoyang District

When: Mooncake vouchers will be sold at the booth from August 8 to September 12. Guests are welcome to collect the mooncakes at the selling booth with their voucher from August 18 to September 18. The traditionally designed mooncake booth is on the first floor of the hotel.

Open: Selling booth, 9 am - 7 pm

Tel: 5909 6688

Rent

CBD, Dong Erhuan Lu, Capitaland, 1 br, 8,000 yuan, Chaoyangmen

Capitaland Center, 1-bedroom apartment, 78 square meters, located along Chaoyangmen Nei Dajie inside East Second Ring Road. Eighty meters away from Dongs subway station on Line 5. Fully serviced apartment managed by Darwin Real Estate Management Company. 11th floor, with elevator controlled by residents' keys. King-sized bed and five-seat sofa.

8,000 yuan per month, including management fee. Located in the downtown area, 15 shops are nearby, including SPR coffee, Laundromat, coffee shop, mini-mart, Japanese restaurant and gym.

Fully furnished, wooden floor, modern bathroom, equipped with Ariston refrigerator, LED TV, washing machine and dryer and central air conditioning.

Tel: 18611559007

Email: chutong@yahoo.cn

(By Jackie Zhang)

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Li Zhixin at lizhixin@ynet.com.

Wenzhou rear-end accident, a horrible nightmare



By Han Manman

Chinese student Wu Zheng has studied journalism in an American college for nearly one year. Although he's abroad, reading news on Chinese websites has become a daily routine for him.

On the morning of July 24, Wu was searching for news when a headline on Sina, one of the biggest portals in China, shocked him greatly – two high-speed trains crashed and led to dozens of people dead or injured.

Wu could not believe his eyes. In his mind, Chinese high-speed trains are safer and more reliable than airlines. "How did this happen?" he wondered.

As he Googled the details, his British roommate Richard was coming back from a basketball game.

"Hey, what's happening? Why do

you look so upset?" Richard asked.

"You know what? A very serious accident happened on my country's new high speed railway. Many people died!" Wu said.

"So horrible! How many people died?" Richard asked.

Wu found it hard to explain due to his poor English.

"The latest report said two bullet trains catch trail with each other in Wenzhou last night. But till now, no official has come out to clarify the reason behind the accident," Wu said.

"What? Two trains catch trail with each other? What does that mean?"

A good idea suddenly came to Wu. He asked Richard to put his mobile phone on the table and said, "Your phone is one bullet train, my phone is another. Suddenly, your phone stops and my phone

bangs into your phone," Wu made a vivid metaphor, hoping Richard could understand him.

"I see! You mean a rear-end collision? A bullet train rear-ended the other train, right?" Richard said.

"Oh, rear-ended, I learned a new word. Can it be used in a car accident?" Wu asked.

"Of course. You can say, 'My car was rear-ended by a truck,'" Richard said.

Richard told Wu that a word linked to rear-ended is "pileup," but he said the word is always used to describe massive rear-ended accidents.

"For example, more than 100 cars and trucks are involved in a massive pileup on a highway as patches of dense fog obscured visibility on the heavily traveled roadway," Richard said.

Blacklist

This is a column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then watch out for this page each week.

1. More than 200 German girls flew for the Beijing beer festival.

Professor Zhu Shida (ZSD): It does not sound quite right. The verb usage of "to fly" matters because it is an intransitive verb. For instance, The birds are flying. She came flying into the office. We are flying to Madrid. Here, it does not mean the act of flying, but rather the act of arrival by plane. So, we have to say: More than 200 German girls flew in for the Beijing beer festival. Another example is: The Prime Minister has flown in to tackle the earthquake relief situation. It means the Prime Minister has come by plane, rather than flown there by himself! He has come to tackle earthquake relief work. When we combine the two into one laconic sentence, the form needs to be correct. **Terry-Boyd Zhang (TBZ):** Yes, the meaning of what is written now is that during the beer festival, there were 200 German girls literally flying around the beer tent, sort of like the owls delivering mail in the Harry Potter movies!

2. Ceramics serve a practical purpose.

ZSD: Is the word "ceramics" a singular or plural noun? The answer is that it is singular, even though it looks like a plural. So, the sample sentence should be: Ceramics serves a practical purpose. In English, we have a lot of nouns that look like plurals that are then used as a singular noun. For instance, physics, mechanics, mathematics, electronics, pneumatics, etc. Please remember they are all singular nouns.

TBZ: Yikes! That's a difficult one. I think I would have qualified the word ceramics, such as ceramic bowls, ceramic spoons, or ceramic decorations, and then the use of the plural would be fine. This can work both ways, depending on if "ceramics" refers to a collection of singular objects or the collective noun for ceramic items.

3. Deputy professor

ZSD: This term is confusing and is not universally recognized, so it may pose some kind of misunderstanding. Is he a professor at the same time that he is a parliamentary deputy? Is he a deputy or assistant to a professor? Obviously this is not what the original writer means. They are thinking of "fu jiao shou," but this is wrong! Although we have deputy mayor, deputy editor, and deputy lieutenant, we don't have "deputy professor" when it comes to the description of a professor's status. It should be "associate professor."

TBZ: In the case of the example, "deputy professor," a native speaker would probably be able to guess what the intended meaning is. The professor's point, though, is that some job titles translate differently into English and, in fact, it is possible that some just don't translate at all. "Master" is one that always trips me up. I find that it is used often in Chinese but may or may not always have an equivalent in English. Remember, this cultural difference can apply to the meanings of words too, not just job titles. For example, what might be "part-time" or "good pay" to you may be "full-time" and "poverty wages" to someone else.

4. The Norwegian Embassy and the Consulate generals

ZSD: The consulate general is the official residence or office of a consul general. We have consuls general when it is plural. Similarly, we have consulates general when it is plural. So, it is wrong to say consulate generals when it is plural. Please remember "consulates general," not consulate generals when it is plural. So, it should be: The Norwegian Embassy and the Consulates general. It is the same rule with "passerby." When it is plural, it is "passersby."

TBZ: All I can say is that English is a difficult language but, with effort, you will be able to overcome all these rules and exceptions! Making mistakes is just part of learning, especially with a difficult and politically technical example like this. Keep going!

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please send a picture of it to lizhixin@ynet.com together with your name and address.

Police breeze and hurl a telephone

By Terry-Boyd Zhang

Dude! (As my Australian friend likes to say) What has happened here?!

Wow. Well, the characters are not terribly difficult to read. Let's start with the first character at the top and work our way through.

The first character is *gui* (expensive) and the second character is *yang* (sun). Wait a minute: so far, the translation is correct! Let's go on. The third character is *cheng* (multiply) and *jing* (police). The last two characters are *zhi* (pay ... out) and *dui* (brigade, team). All right!

Moving on to the bottom line of the sign, we have the character *jing* (police) again, just like above, and then *lu* (road) in brackets. Then there is *feng* (breeze, wind).

Wow! This is a truly accurate trans-



lation! I am impressed by the use of articles "the" and "a" and prepositions "by" and "to" on the sign. However, if the words are "right," why doesn't the thing make any sense?

The problem comes in putting it together. The first two characters together, Guiyang, is the name of the capital city of beautiful Guizhou

Province. Then, *chengjing* means "traffic police" and *zhidui* means something like "division," meaning a group of the Guiyang Police Department responsible for traffic violations. Preventing them, I mean – not causing them.

Now, *jing* (police) and *lufeng* probably mean "police service" and the following two characters are *jiandu* (supervise). Lastly is *dianhua* (telephone).

Therefore, this sign must be for the Guiyang Traffic Police Supervision Hotline. If you ever need this number, and I hope you never will, you can be fairly sure that the phone number is as accurate as the translation. If it isn't, you can always breeze the streets, hurl telephones and wait until the police find you. This is not recommended!



“The moment one leaves is the start of the return home.”

By Yao Weijie

Last year, Fan Lixin's documentary *Last Train Home* brought international attention to the hardship of China's migrant workers, especially during the hectic Spring Festival travel season. Another recent film – this one not a documentary – focuses on a similar subject. In *Return Tickets*, Taiwanese director Yung-shing Teng depicts the story of migrant workers in Shanghai.

A ticket home

Taiwanese director eyes mainland's migrant workers

Cao Li leaves her hometown of Fuyang, Anhui Province to try to eke out a living in Shanghai.

Escaping from a failed marriage, Cao Li leaves her hometown of Fuyang, Anhui Province for Shenzhen to open a clothing shop. Not long before the shop goes bankrupt, she moves again, to Shanghai, where she shares a seven-square-meter room while trying to eke out a living.

She finds a job as a cleaner and babysitter, sending money to her family back home to pay for her child's school tuition.

Six hundred kilometers separates her from her hometown. To earn money to go home, Cao sells fake bus tickets. The joy of being able to buy a ticket home is tempered by knowledge of the fraud.

"Leaving was Cao's choice, but she really had no choice," director Yung-shing Teng said.

Teng, who lives in Shanghai, knows all about people who have little time or opportunity to return home.

He has seen many female migrant workers. "Their stories happen around me. I see them objectively, and that's why I chose them to take a



leading role in my film," he said.

Also, "after living in Shanghai for six years, I had a longing to return home," he said. "I thought it was time to shoot a movie about the family."

He spoke with playwright Tang Qun about something they saw on the local news: more than 40 migrant workers from Anhui Province chartered a bus to return home on the eve of the Spring Festival because it was too hard to buy train tickets.

"The news is ordinary, but there was a picture that impressed me," Teng said. "I began to think, what does family mean? Why is family on everyone's mind?"

In the film, "the place Fuyang



is not a concrete place, it's only a symbol of family," Teng said. "No matter how far home is, 60,000 meters, 600 meters or only six meters, in the end, when looking back, we realize the moment we leave is the starting point of returning."

Teng invited Qin Hailu to play the lead. She won a Golden Horse Film Festival award for Best Actress in 2001 for her role in *Durian Durian*.

"The first time I saw Qin, I knew she was the one I wanted," Teng said. "When she stands in a crowd, you think she's alienated from everyone else."

On set, Qin almost collapsed out of empathy. After one scene, she went to a balcony and couldn't stop crying.

"She is smart and knows how to restrain her emotions," Teng said. "The second shot was perfect. You could see her heart was full of emotion."

In another scene, another actress, Xie Qin, could barely hold back her tears.

Return Tickets is Teng's second movie, following his debut *Love at 7-11* in 2003.

In June, Teng won the Best Director for Asian New Talent Award at the 14th Shanghai International Film Festival.



"The jury unanimously felt the film was a perfect example of a director's movie, with a strong personal signature in its look and mise-en-scene and control of all dramatic elements," the jury said.



The film depicts migrant worker's trip home during the Spring Festival.

Photos provided by Yung-shing Teng